The Swiss Family Robinson

JOHANN WYSS

NEW METHOD SUPPLEMENTARY READER STAGE 3

THE SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON

BY

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Simplified and brought within the vocabulary of New Method Reader 3 by
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FOREWORD

The Swiss Family Robinson, in the original, introduces a very large number of picturable names of things, hence it might have value as a vocabulary-builder; but many of these things (e.g., names of wild animals and rare plants) are of little value to the learner. In preparing this version I have therefore confined the plot to the problem of a family making a home on an uninhabited island, and the "outside words" are restricted to those which form part of the common environment of mankind, or which (e.g., 'Gourd') are important "Definers" able to explain a large group of variously named objects (marrow, melon, pumpkin, etc.). Pictures of things necessary for the story are given without names written on them and are not included in the list of new words at the end of the book (e.g. 'Flax').

One

SHIP ON THE ROCKS

A. The storm had lasted for six days. The ship was carried far away from its course and it was not possible for the Captain to discover where he was. All those in the ship believed that their lives would be lost.

My wife and my four young sons gathered close to me.

"My dear children," I said, "God can save us." We went down on our knees and prayed.

Then, above the noise of the storm, I heard a cry: "Land! Land!" The ship struck the rocks and waves came over us.

The Captain cried, "All is lost. Let down the boats."

"Lost!" cried the children, throwing themselves into my arms.

"Be brave, my boys," I said. "The land is not far off. This is one of the many small islands in this part. I have seen them on the map. God will show us a way of saving ourselves. I will go up and see what can be done."

B. I went up and saw that all the boats were in the sea and all the men had left the ship. They had gone away in the boats and forgotten us!

Then I looked towards the land. The front part of the ship was held up between two rocks so that it was above the water.

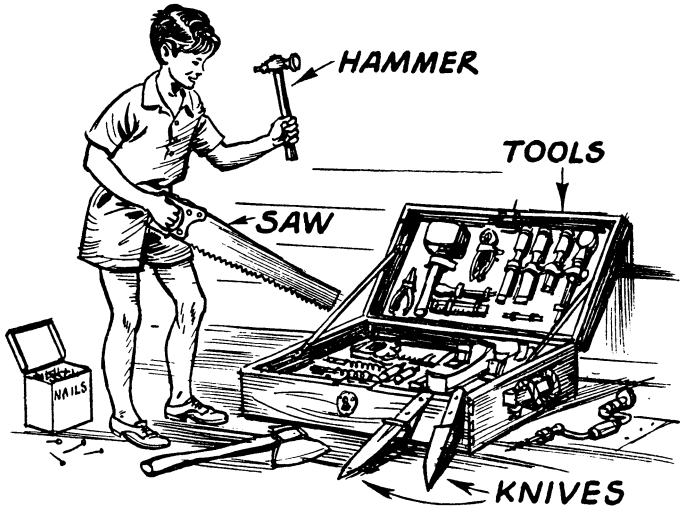
I went back to my family. "All is not lost," I said. "Part of the ship is above the water. Tomorrow the waves will have gone down and we shall be able to reach the land."

Night came.

My wife prepared a meal and the boys went to bed, but my wife and I kept watch.

Day came. There was less wind and the waves were going down. The sky was clear and the land was not far off.

"Now," I said to the boys, "let us first go over all parts of the ship and see what things we can find which may help us to reach the land. Then we will

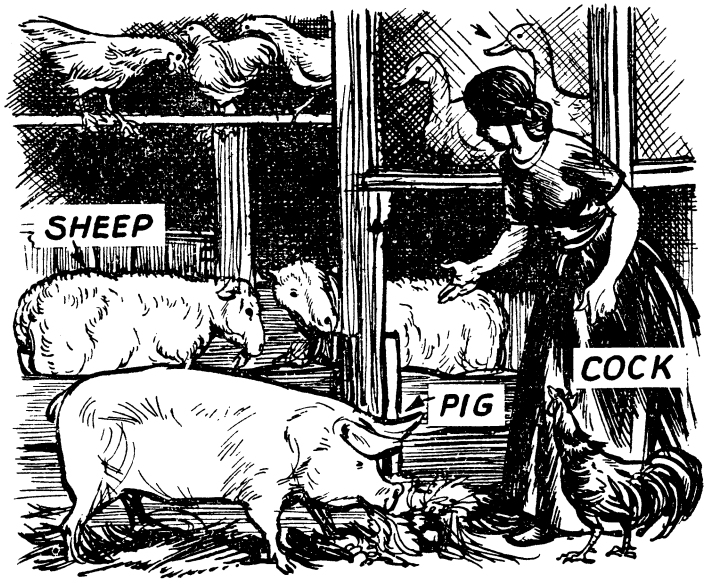


meet here, bringing anything useful which we have found."

C. I went to the store-room to see what food and water we had. Fritz, the eldest boy, brought back guns and gunpowder and shot. My second son, Ernest, found a box of *tools,*—a *hammer,* a lot of *nails, saws,* a big *knife,* and some small knives,—and some other things. The box was very heavy but Fritz helped him to carry it.

My third son, Jack, opened the door of the Captain's room and two big dogs jumped out at him. They were quite friendly and he led them along.

Then my wife came and told me what she had found. "I have found a cow, an ass (donkey), two



goats, a *pig*, two *sheep*, a *cock* and some hens and some ducks."

D. I said, "All those things will be useful—but not the dogs. They will eat too much and be of little help."

"But, father," said Jack, "they will help us in catching animals for food when we reach the land."

"Yes," said I, "but we have not yet reached the land. We must think of a way of doing this. We must make a boat. Let us go and get some *tubs* and some long pieces of wood."

So we set to work and made a boat. It was very heavy. How would we get it into the water and how could we make it reach the land? We must have a *mast* and a sail; and we must have *paddles* to make it go where we want it to go.

E. "We will put up the mast when the boat is in the water," I said.

"But how will we get it into the water?" asked Fritz.

"We must put rollers under it. Then it will roll along and so go into the sea."

We made a mast and fixed a cross-piece to it to carry the sail. We made a place in the boat for the foot of the mast, and ropes to hold up the mast when we raised it.

At last all was ready.

I fixed a long rope onto our boat and tied the other end to the ship so that our boat might not be carried away.

Then we had a meal and all slept peacefully.

MAST
TUBS
PADDLE
PLANKS

Two

HOW WE CAME TO THE LAND

A. We were all awake at sunrise. I called the children together and said, "We must first feed the animals. I hope we shall be able to come back and bring them later. Now gather together everything which we can take with us and which will be useful on the land."

We took guns and powder and shot. Each carried a bag full of food. We took some cooking-pots, the hammer, saw, nails, knives, axes, and we brought sailcloth to make a tent and a sail for the boat. The hens seemed sad at being left, so we brought them with us. "The ducks and the dogs," I said, "may *swim* behind the boat."

The boys were sitting in the boat when my wife came, carrying a big bag. I did not ask what was in it.

B. At first the boat turned round and round, but after a time I found how to make it go towards the land.

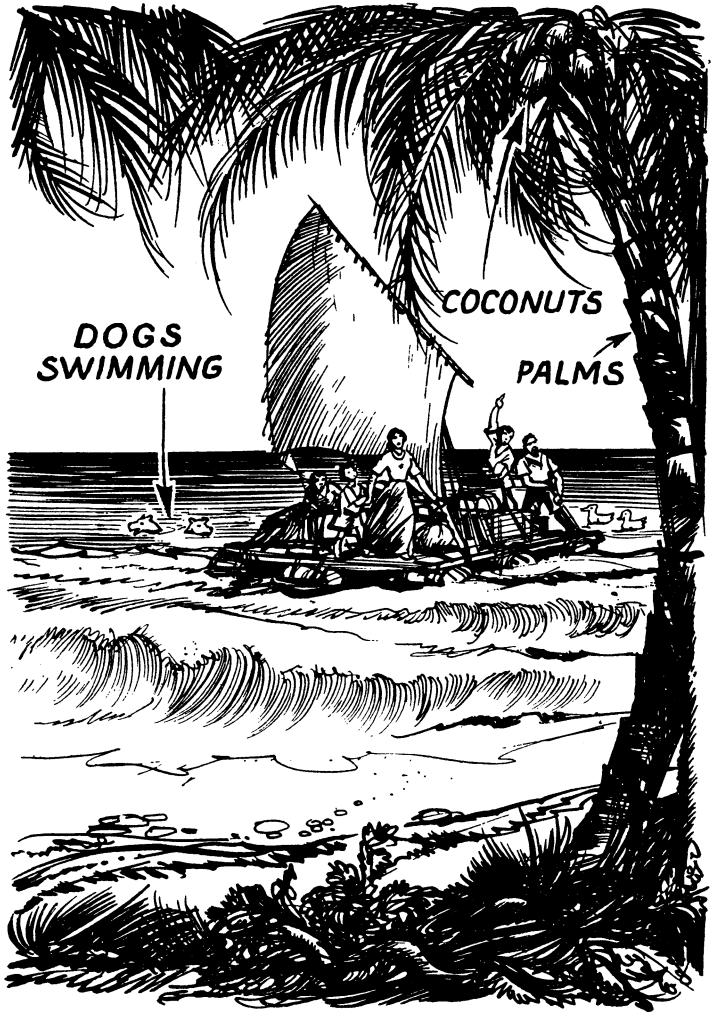
"Look," cried Fritz as we came nearer the shore, "Look: those are *coconuts.* We shall have coconuts to eat."

The ducks were swimming towards a little bay.

"They know the best place to come to land," I said; "so I will follow them." They led us to the mouth of a stream which flowed into a little bay.

The two elder boys jumped onto the land, then helped Francis to follow them.

"Ah!" said Francis, "are those coconuts?"


DOGS
SWIMMING
COCONUTS
PALMS

"Yes," I said, "Fritz was right. Those are coconuts. You shall have some later."

The dogs jumped and ran round us, making a great noise. Brightly coloured birds came up from the trees and flew in circles above our heads.

Then we began to bring the things from the boat. We set the hens free. Then I cut some long branches from the trees and fixed them in the ground and I put the sailcloth over them and made a tent.

"Now," I said to the children, "go and bring some dry grass for our beds." While they were doing this I got some big stones and made a place for our fire. I soon made a good fire, using dry wood which had been thrown up on the shore. My wife got a pot of water from the stream and put it on the fire. Then, helped by little Francis, she began to cook a meal.

C. Fritz took a gun and set off along the riverbank. Ernest went to the right along the shore and Jack went to the left to get *shell*-fish. I went to carry more things from the boat onto the land. Suddenly I heard Jack shouting. I took an axe and ran to help him. I found him standing in water up to his knees.

"Come here, father," he shouted. "Come quickly. I have caught something really big!"

"All right," I said, "bring it here."

"I can't. It has caught me."

I laughed. Then I struck the thing with my axe and set Jack free. It had caught only his clothing, so he was not hurt.

"Well," I said, "Jack is the first boy who has found something which we can eat."

Just then Ernest came. "I have found some things which are good to eat, but I need help in getting them."

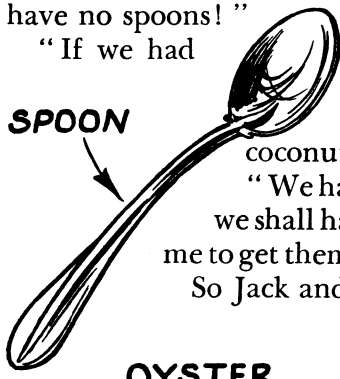
"What are they?"

"*Oysters.* But I need help because they are stuck hard onto the rocks. We will get them later, after our meal."

"The food is ready," said my wife, "but we ought to wait for Fritz."

She looked at the pot of food. "How shall we eat

it? We cannot put our hands in: we cannot take out the liquid with a knife! We need *spoons*, but we have no spoons!"



"If we had coconuts we could cut them in half and use them."

"We could do that if we had coconuts, but we have not."

"We have shells!" said Ernest. "Or we shall have if you will come and help me to get them."

So Jack and Ernest went to get oysters.

D. Soon after this Fritz came. He was looking sad.

"Didn't you find anything?" I asked.

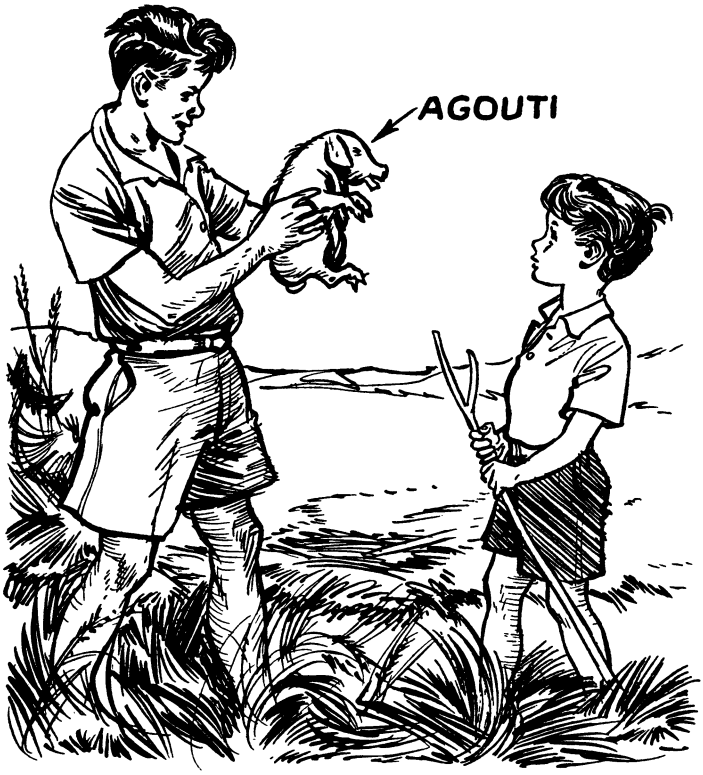
"Ah! Ah!" he said sadly.

"Oh, he has!" cried Francis, who had gone behind Fritz. "He's hiding it behind his back."

Then Fritz laughed and showed what he had got.

"What is it?" he said. "It looks rather like a pig, but it is not a pig. I saw it moving in the grass. Sometimes it was digging to get food out of the ground, and sometimes it sat up and seemed to be washing its face."

Ernest came back, followed by Jack, bringing oysters.



"Let me see it," said Ernest. "Yes, yes, I think I have seen a picture of it in a book. It is not really like a pig: its teeth are different and its skin is softer. I think it is an animal called an *Agouti*."

"Ernest is right," I said. "It is an Agouti. It lives in holes in trees: it is very good to eat."

Jack was trying to open an oyster with a knife.

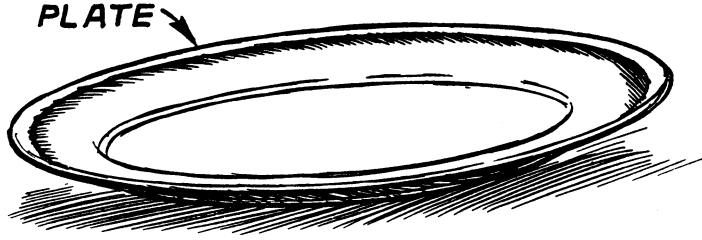
"I can't do it!" he said. "I can't open it."

"Put the oysters near the hot fire," I said, "and they will open without your help."

E. So we sat down to our meal. First we ate the oysters so as to use the shells as spoons for the other food.

"But we have no *plates*!" said my wife.

"I have a plate," said Ernest, showing a very big shell which he had found on the shore. "There are lots of these shells where I found this one."



"Then why," I asked, "did you not think of others and bring plates for all of us? Give that shell to the dogs and eat out of the pot like the rest of us."

The dogs finished their meal very quickly but were still hungry. While we were eating they began to pull pieces off the Agouti. Fritz saw this and was very angry. He hit the dogs with his gun: he hit them so hard that he broke part of the gun.

"Fritz," I said, "you are the oldest and the other boys watch what you do and do the same. You have taught them to be angry without reason and to hurt animals which meant no wrong."

"I am sorry, father. Forgive me."

"Tell the dogs that you are sorry and ask their forgiveness."

Fritz took a piece of bread in each hand and was soon back leading the two dogs behind him.

F. The sun was going down when we finished our meal. Then my wife opened the bag which she had brought from the ship and began to throw handfuls of corn to the hens. I stopped her.

"I am very glad that you have brought the corn. That is very good. But we must not give it to the hens. We must use it as seed and grow corn to make bread. The hens may have other food."

The hens went up onto the top of the tent. The ducks went in among the tall grasses on the edge of the stream. We loaded our guns and laid them at our sides. Then we said our evening prayers and went into the tent.

Three

HOW FRITZ AND I FOUND MANY USEFUL THINGS

A. We awoke very early; the hens and the ducks woke us up.

"The first thing to do is to see if any of the seamen from the ship have reached the land."

"We need not all go," said my wife. "You may take Fritz. I will stay here with the others."

"Yes," I answered, "I will take this dog named Turk with us, and the other dog, Flora, shall stay with you."

My wife gave us bags of food to take with us and we set out. We went along the sea-shore looking for the marks of feet in the sand; but we found none.

Fritz had brought one of the other guns as he had broken his.

"Shall I fire the gun? If they are near, they will hear it and come to us."

"No!" I said. "Others might hear it. There may be wild men on the island, and it would be dangerous to let them know that we are here."

B. We turned away from the shore and, after going about a mile we came to a little wood. At every step we saw some new and beautiful plant.

"What is this strange plant," said Fritz, "with these big things growing on it?"

"Ah," I said, "those are very useful. They are *gourds*."

We took some of the gourds and cut them open.

"Now we must take out the soft inside and leave the shell to dry in the sun. Then we may make spoons

and plates and cooking-pots. That is how men who have no iron or other metal make these things—they make them out of gourds."

"I do not understand how a cooking-pot can be made from a gourd. If you put it on the fire, it will burn."

"Ah," I said, "but they do not put it on the fire. They fill the gourd with water and then put hot stones into the water and so make the water boil."

We opened a number of gourds and cut plates and spoons and pots from them, and put them in the sun. We marked the place carefully so that we might come back and get them later when they were dry.

C. We went on and came to some land covered with very tall grasses, growing high above our heads.

"Now where," I thought, "have I seen such grasses? Was it in a picture?"

We had to cut our way through the grasses. My hands became very sticky. I put a hand to my mouth, then I remembered!

"Come here, Fritz. Cut open one of these grasses and put the soft inside part in your mouth."

He did so. "Oh!" he said. "It's sweet. Like sugar!"

"It *is* sugar," I answered. "These are *sugar canes*, the plant from which we get sugar. These canes are pressed between rollers: the liquid is pressed out. It is then boiled to drive off the water, leaving dark brown sugar. This is then made into the white sugar which we use."

"Let us take some of these back with us. The others will be very pleased and surprised."

We went on and saw in front of us a lot of coconut trees. As we came nearer we saw a lot of monkeys on the ground near the trees. But they saw us before we could come near and ran up into the trees making angry noises at us.

Fritz raised his gun.

"Stop!" I cried. "Why do you want to kill one of those monkeys?"

"Because they are making nasty, angry noises at us. They are nasty, useless things."

"Or perhaps they are laughing at you. Why do you become so angry because you are being laughed at? They are right to laugh at an angry boy—and they are not useless."

D. "How can you make a monkey useful?" said Fritz.

I gathered some stones and threw them at the monkeys, and they threw down coconuts at me.

"There!" I said, gathering up some of the coconuts to carry home. "An angry monkey can be quite useful."

"More useful than an angry boy?" said Fritz. "But I am not angry now. Let me carry the coconuts."

As we came to some more coconut trees the dog, Turk, ran on in front. We heard cries of pain and angry cries from the monkeys up in the trees. As we came nearer we saw that Turk had caught one of the monkeys.

Fritz ran forward to save it, but it was too late; the monkey was dead. Its young one was not far away: it was in the grass crying out in fear. Then a very strange thing happened. As soon as the baby monkey saw Fritz it jumped onto his back and held onto his hair.

"Take it off! Take it off!" cried Fritz.

"No, no," I laughed. "It has lost its mother and so it has taken you as its father. Yes, I can see how like its father it is!"

E. I gently took the monkey off Fritz's back and held it in my arms like a baby.

"Well, what shall we do with it?" I asked.

"Let me take it home," cried Fritz. "I will get milk for it from the cow in the ship, and soon it will learn to find food for itself. . . . Now, Turk," he said, "you killed the poor baby's mother; you must help me to be a father to it. I shall teach it to ride on your back."

My wife and the three boys saw us coming and ran out to meet us. They were very pleased to see the little monkey.

"What are those sticks?" they asked.

"They are for you to eat," said Fritz.

When we reached the tent we found a very good meal waiting for us. Several sorts of fish were cooking over the fire; and a bird was being cooked on the other side of the fire. Francis had caught the fish and Ernest had caught the bird.

"I do not know what bird it is, but it was so foolish that it let me come close and I hit it with my stick."

The fish was very nice; but we did not like the taste of Ernest's bird: it tasted of fish.

"Most sea birds eat fish," I said, "and a fishy-tasting bird is not nice."

"Perhaps a birdy-tasting fish would not be nice, either," said Ernest.

"No!" I said, laughing. "Birds eat fish, but fish do not eat birds, so you will never find a fish which tastes of bird."

The sun was setting when we finished our meal.

The hens went up onto the top of the tent, and the ducks went into the grass near the stream. Fritz took the little monkey (now named 'Knips') to bed with him.

Four

HOW WE WENT BACK TO THE SHIP

A. As soon as I awoke I called my wife and said, "There are so many things to be done that it is difficult to know which to do first."

"The first thing to do," she said, "is to go and bring those animals from the ship. You and Fritz may go, while I and the others will look for a place in which to build a home."

"How can we be sure of reaching the ship?" asked Fritz. "When we came to the land, the wind brought us. But we cannot paddle the boat out against the wind."

"The wind changes, Fritz."

"Yes, father, but how can we know when it will change? Must we wait for days until it changes?"

"No. We need wait only until this evening. When we came to land, it was late in the day: the land was hot, so air was rising from the land and cold air was blowing in from the sea. But the sea keeps its heat longer than the land. The land gains and loses heat more quickly than the sea. So at night the sea is

hotter than the land, and the wind blows from the land to the sea."

"The flow of water from the river will help us."

"Yes. It will help for the first part of the way."

B. I turned to my wife. "We must start late and stay on the ship all night. Let Ernest climb up that high tree and tie a piece of cloth there as a flag. If there is any danger, pull the flag down."

"You must put up a light in the ship," said my wife, "then I shall know that you have got there safely."

"I will do so," I answered.

We waited till evening. The wind changed just as I had said and we started out and reached the ship even more easily than I had expected.

The animals were in good health and had enough food. Fritz had brought the baby monkey with him. It was very happy when he gave it a drink of cow's milk.

I put up a light as I had promised my wife, then we had some food and went to sleep.

We woke very early next morning and spent some time gathering together things which would be useful to us on the land. "We must have plenty of gunpowder and shot," said Fritz, "so that we may be safe against wild animals and any enemies, and so that we may kill birds and animals for food. Later on we shall need . . ."

C. "We must think of the present," I said. "What do we need now, for these next few days or weeks? We must take more sail-cloth to help us to make a home, and we must think of food. What food is there on the ship?"

"I have seen a tub of butter," said Fritz, "and there is the ship's bread, and salt meat—if it is not spoilt by sea water. But what will we do when the bread is used up and the butter is bad?"

"Let us think of the present time," I said. "We have enough troubles to think of without thinking of troubles which may come later. Perhaps a ship will come and take us away."

But I was wrong. We should always be prepared for whatever may come. So we made some very foolish mistakes and did not bring back things which we badly needed later. These mistakes might have cost us our lives.

Gathering together these things filled the day and we had to spend a second night on the ship.

Five

HOW WE BROUGHT THE ANIMALS TO THE LAND

A. We woke up late next morning.

Fritz made ready some breakfast. I found the Captain's *telescope* and through it I could see my wife come out of the tent and look towards the ship. I took down the light and put up a white flag which was to show that all was well.

"Now, Fritz," I said, as we sat at breakfast, "how can we bring those animals to the land?"

"We cannot put them in the boat," he said. "They would be too heavy. Can we make another boat? . . . No, it would be far too big. What can we do? The pig can swim, but the cows and the sheep and the goats cannot swim so far, nor the donkey."

"No," I said, "we cannot make a boat big enough. There are many tubs on the ship—enough for such

a boat, but it would take too long to make one."

"Tubs!" cried Fritz. "Let us make each animal its own boat. Let us tie tubs onto the animals to hold them up in the water and pull them behind the boat!"

B. "Well," I said, "that may be possible. Let us try first with an animal and see if it can be done."

We fixed a tub on each side of a sheep and put it into the sea. It went down, down . . . I thought it would never come up! Then at last I saw its head above the water and it began to swim. When it was tired it stopped swimming and stayed there, held up by the tubs.

Fritz jumped down into the sea and tied a rope to the sheep and so we brought it back into the ship. We worked very hard and for a time thought that it would not be possible. The pig and the donkey were the most difficult.

"Perhaps we should leave them," said Fritz. "The cow and the goats are what we need most."

We had finished the cow and the goats, and then we tried again to do the pig and the donkey. The donkey seemed to understand, but the pig gave us a lot of trouble.

"The pig is very fat," said Fritz: "perhaps its fat will keep it up on the water; and pigs are good swimmers." So we did not tie tubs to the pig.

So at last we got all the animals into the water. We gathered up the ropes with which we could pull them if they needed help. We got into the boat and put up the sail.

C. There was a strong wind and we were getting on well. We sat eating our dinner quite happily when suddenly Fritz gave a cry: "Look! We have lost everything. All is lost! "

I saw a great fish swimming towards us.

"A *shark*! " I cried. "Quickly: give me a gun and take one yourself. Wait! . . . wait till it is near enough. Shoot at the head . . . Now! "

The shot from Fritz's gun struck the head. We saw blood on the water.

"Perhaps it will come again. Load the gun and be ready."

We waited: but it did not come again.

I feared that there might be other sharks. Then I thought that, if there were other sharks, they would eat the wounded shark, brought to them by the blood in the water.

Our boat moved on. Soon we could see the little bay. I cut the ropes of the animals and they came up onto the shore, glad to be set free from their tubs.

None of the family had come to meet us. I wondered where they had gone. Then we saw them running towards us.

My wife was very surprised to see all the animals—even the pig!—brought safely to the land.

" How did you think of this way of doing it? " she asked.

" I did not think of it," I answered. " I could not see any way of doing it. This was Fritz's plan."

Six

FINDING A PLACE FOR A HOME

A. "What did you do, my dear, while Fritz and I were on the ship?"

"I found a place for our new home," said my wife. "The heat in the tent was more than we could bear, and there are no trees here under which we could sit. So Ernest and Jack took their guns, and we brought with us enough food for the day. The two dogs also came. We came to a small river and crossed it on stones. Then we went on and reached some high ground and were surprised at the beauty of the country. From there I could see a small wood in the distance. We went on, and at last came to the wood.

The trees are wonderful! There were only ten or twelve trees, but these trees were the biggest I have ever seen."

B. "The trees seemed to be growing in the air held up by *roots* coming up out of the ground. There were many other roots like the posts holding up the roof of a house. The leaves were very thick and the branches were very long. We stopped and ate our dinner there. This seemed to me the perfect place in which to live. There! Now you know my story! I went to look for a new place to live in and I found one. If you really want to please me, promise we will go there tomorrow and make a home for us in one of those giant trees."

"What!" said I, laughing. "In a tree? A house in

ROOTS

a tree! We might perhaps live under a tree, but how would we get up into the tree? Fly?"

"You may laugh if you wish, but I am quite sure we could build a small hut among the branches, with a way of getting up to it."

"Well," I said, "we will all go and see the place tomorrow and think what we can do. . . A house in a tree! Well! Well! Well! All we need is wings and we shall all be quite safe and happy."

Seven

GOING TO OUR NEW HOME

A. During the night I had thought over what my wife had said, and as we sat at breakfast next day I said, "Yes: we will go and live in that place which you saw on the other side of the river." I turned to the boys and said, "Now, what is the first thing we must do?"

"I know!" said Jack. "We must move the tent there and then bring all our things; and then bring the animals."

"What do you think, Fritz?"

"That place is on the other side of the river. Mother and Ernest and Jack went across on stones. But the cow and donkey and the pig cannot cross on those stones and we cannot carry our things over through the water."

"Well, what is the first thing we must do?"

"We must build a bridge. That's the first thing, isn't it?"

"No," I said. "What is the first thing, Ernest?"

"The first thing is to go out to the ship and bring wood with which to build the bridge."

"Yes, Ernest," I said. "We cannot build a bridge without wood. That is right."

"But it isn't right," said Jack.

"No?"

"No, father, because I saw lots of wood on the shore where that thing caught me. The sea had carried it there from the ship, and there will be more there now."

"Good boy!" I said. "Let us go and see what we can find."

B. Jack was right. We found plenty of wood. We tied together the big pieces which would be useful to us and pulled them to the mouth of the stream. Then we got the donkey and with its help pulled the pieces of wood up the stream and onto the land where our bridge was to be built.

With much difficulty we laid three long pieces across the river, then we nailed boards across them. It was very hard work and we all slept heavily that night. On the next morning we got up early and began preparing for our journey.

We put our pots and our food and all our small things into bags and hung them one on each side of the cow and the donkey. We put little bags on the goats; but we could not make the pig carry anything. We put Francis on the back of the donkey so that it

might not run away. The boys and I carried our bed coverings and all that we would need for the first few days in our new home.

C. When we were all ready my wife came to me and said, "We cannot leave the hens here, or we shall lose them all."

Fritz and Ernest then began running about trying to catch the hens. They could not catch one!

"Now," said my wife, "I will show you how to do it."

She threw a little food on the ground: all the hens ran to it. Then she threw some more inside the tent and they all went inside the tent. While they were eating she shut the opening.

"Now, Jack, you go into the tent. Catch the birds and hand them out to us. We will tie their legs and put them in a basket on the cow's back."

At last we were ready to start. We put all the rest of our things inside the tent and closed it up carefully.

Fritz and my wife marched in front. Then came the cow and the donkey with Francis sitting on its back; then the goats led by Jack. The monkey rode on the goat from which he got his milk. After him came Ernest and the sheep and I came last. The dogs ran round helping to keep us all in line.

The pig was not willing to come with us, so we left it behind.

D. When we reached the bridge, the pig joined us. When it saw us going away, it came running after us making angry noises.

We crossed the bridge carefully, one at a time. I feared that the weight of the cow might break it, so the donkey went first. The bridge held up, so the cow went next, and then the rest followed: but not the pig! Oh, no! The pig would not go on to the bridge. We tried to drive it; but no! Then, when we had all got across, the pig swam across and came after us.

So we came to the place where our new home was to be.

"What wonderful trees!" said Fritz. "How high they are!"

"Yes," I said, "I did not think they were as big as this. This is a very good place. If we could climb

one of those trees and make a house there, we would be safe from all wild animals."

We tied up the animals so that they might not wander away—but not the pig. The pig lay down and slept.

We set the hens free and they flew up into the trees. My wife had started a fire and cooked a meal for us.

Eight

THE ROPE LADDER

A. When the meal was finished, I said, "We must sleep on the ground tonight, for I can't see how we can get up into the tree this evening."

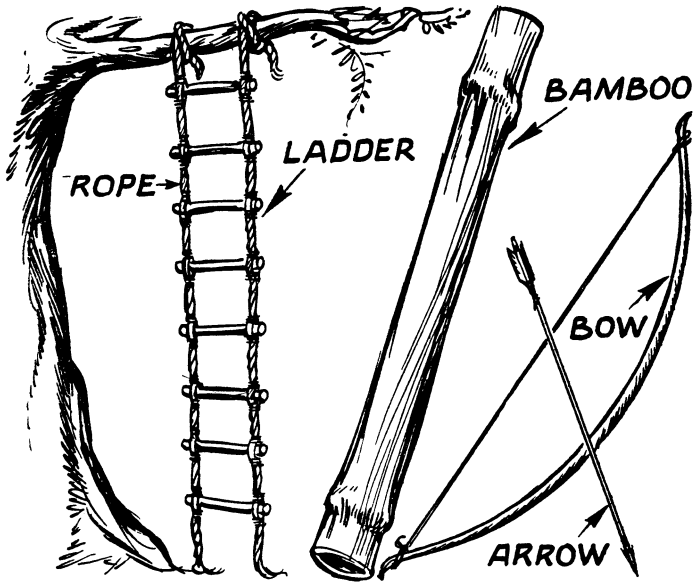
Then I went to the shore with Fritz and Ernest so as to find the things needed to make a *ladder*. The shore was covered with pieces of wood of all sizes, carried there from the ship by the waves.

"It would be difficult to make a ladder out of these pieces of wood," said Fritz, "and it would be very heavy."

"Look there!" cried Ernest, "there is just what we need! *Bamboos!*"

I cut the bamboos into pieces about five feet long and tied them together so as to carry them. I cut some straight sticks. I said, "With this bamboo I can make a *bow*, and I can make *arrows* from these sticks."

We came back to the tree carrying the bamboos and put them down on the ground.



B. "Now," I said, "we must find the height of the tree and we must see how much rope we must have to make the ladder."

"How can we measure it?" said Fritz. "Shall we tie bamboos together until we have a thing long enough to reach that branch?"

"That would be very difficult," said Ernest. "It would be too heavy to raise up."

"I do not think we can measure it," I said; "and we only need to know *about* how high it is, so as to see if we have enough rope. . . . Jack, come here."

Jack came running. "Tell me, Jack, how high do you think that branch is."

He looked up. "Is it twenty feet high?"

"Oh, no!" said Ernest. "It is much more than that. It's forty feet."

"Forty? . . . Come, Fritz, what do you think?"

"I think five tall men could stand one on top of the other so as to reach it. That makes it about thirty feet high."

"If I add all your answers together I get 90: 3 into 90 gives 30. That is a good way of finding any height or distance which you cannot measure, but of course, it is better to ask more people—more than three!—It is about thirty feet high."

C. "The branch is thirty feet high," I said. "Now let us see how much rope we have. We have over sixty feet of thick rope, a longer piece of *cord* (thin rope) and a lot of *string*. Now we will lay out two long pieces of rope on the ground and we will cut pieces of bamboo two feet long. Fritz, you cut the pieces: Ernest will help me to lay out the rope."

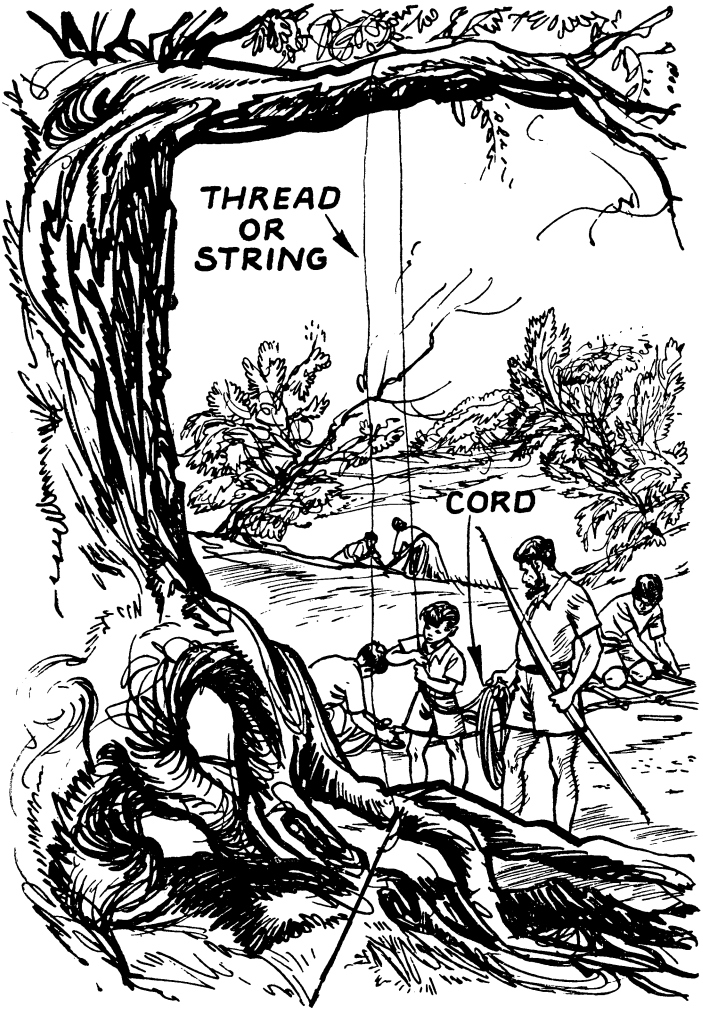
So we set to work.

"Now," I said, "we must fix cross-pieces of bamboo into the rope to make steps. So we shall have a rope ladder."

We worked very hard and after some hours our ladder was ready. Then I sat down to make a bow from a piece of bamboo.

"Ernest," I said, "get some feathers and make arrows from these sticks. Put a big nail on one end and feathers on the other."

"Oh!" cried Jack. "A bow and arrows! What are you going to do with them? Let me play with them!"


THREAD
OR
STRING
CORD

D. "I am not making a plaything, Jack. I am going to shoot with this. But soon you shall all have bows and arrows because we must be careful with our gunpowder. When this gunpowder is used up we cannot get any more. And, if there are wild and dangerous men on the island, we shall need our gunpowder for fighting against them."

"Then what are you making the bow and arrows for?" asked Ernest. "Are you going to shoot animals for food? Must we not first put up the rope ladder into the tree?"

When the bow and arrows were ready, I tied a long piece of string to an arrow and shot the arrow up, over the branch, and it came down on the other side, carrying the thread with it.

"Now we will tie a cord onto the thread and pull the cord over the branch."

So we did this.

"Ah!" said Ernest, who was always quick to understand, "now you will tie the rope ladder to this cord and pull that up onto the branch. Then you will hold it there with the cord while someone climbs up and fixes it on the branch."

"Just so," I said, "and you shall go up, as you are smaller than Fritz and I do not think Jack can fix the ladder well enough."

Fritz and I held the cord while Ernest climbed up. Soon the ladder was fixed onto the branch.

"That is a good day's work," I said. "Now we must tie up the animals and we will sleep at the foot of the tree. Tomorrow we will begin to build our Tree House."

We had our evening meal and the children went to bed.

"Look!" said Jack. "Our rope ladder is being used already!"

I looked: the hens had gone to sleep there, one on each step.

I lit a big fire to keep away dangerous animals, and decided to stay awake and keep watch.

Nine

BUILDING THE TREE HOUSE

A. I was very restless at first: I felt that we were not in a very safe place. I heard a strange sound . . . No! that was only the falling of leaves from the tree. The fire was getting low: . . . what were those shadows? Was that some beast moving nearer? . . . nearer? I got up and put more wood on the fire. At last I felt safer and went to sleep.

It was daylight when I awoke. All the others were awake already. We had breakfast: then we set to work again.

My wife milked the cow, and then went down to the shore with Ernest, Jack and Francis and the donkey. They went to get the wood which we would need for building the house.

Fritz and I climbed up the ladder into the tree, so as to plan our house.

"These branches," I said, "are thick and close together and they come out straight from the tree. The floor of the house can be here, and the tree will be one of the walls."

B. Fritz looked up and said, "Those branches higher up will hold up the roof. What sort of roof?"

"We will put a sail over those branches and bring it down to the floor on two sides."

That, as you will hear later, was where I made a great mistake. How foolish I was! Could I not think what would happen to such a roof in winter? But at

the time Fritz and I were very pleased with our simple plans.

"This fourth side," I said, "will be open. We can look out from there, and perhaps we may make a place where we can sit outside in the daytime."

"It will be a beautiful house!" said Fritz. . . . "What a long time they are bringing the wood!"

At last my wife and Ernest appeared with the donkey pulling along a great load of wood. More wood was tied onto its back and Francis was sitting on top of that.

C. They unloaded the wood and went back at once for more.

"How shall we get it up here?" said Fritz. "Shall I carry it up the ladder?"

"We must pull it up."

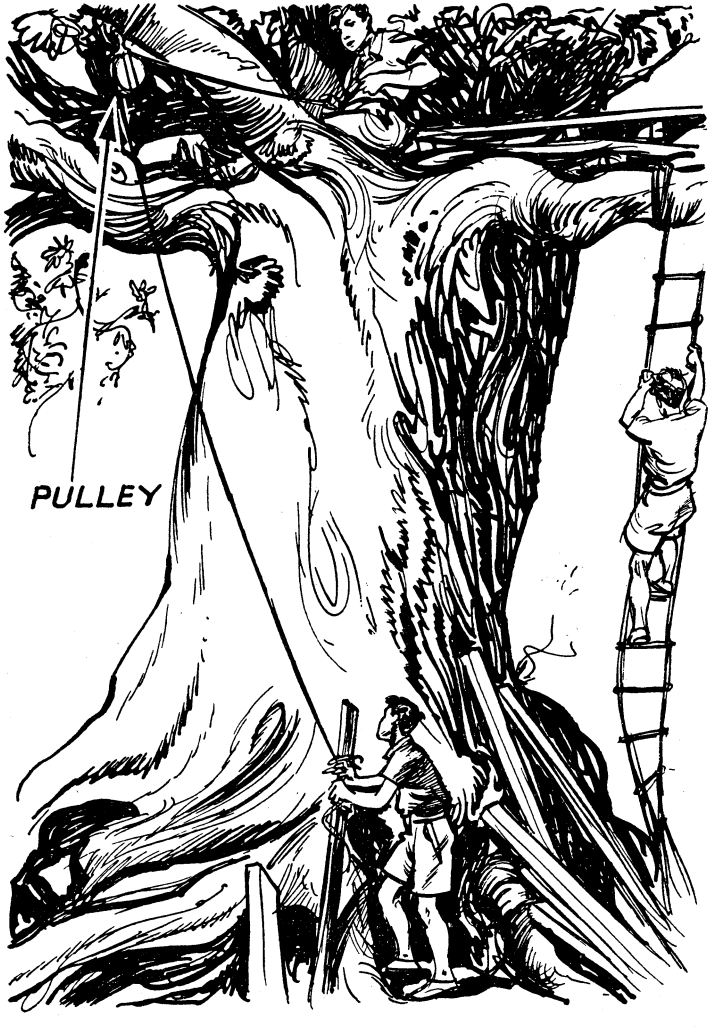
"With a wheel," said Fritz, "a wheel for pulling things up. What is the word?"

"A *pulley*."

"Yes! Yes! A pulley! Where did I see a pulley? It was in Ernest's box of tools."

Fritz found the pulley: we tied it to a branch and pulled up the pieces of wood. My wife and Ernest made two more journeys to the shore and then Ernest stayed and tied pieces of wood onto the rope, and Fritz pulled them up. I went on making the floor while my wife prepared a meal.

D. When evening came the floor was finished, and we hung our sail-cloth over the higher branches and nailed it down to the floor on two sides. On the


PULLEY

fourth side we had a good look-out over the country round us and plenty of cool air could come into the house.

Fritz and I climbed down the ladder.

"There!" I said. "Our house is finished." I saw that there were some pieces of wood left.

"We will make a table and some chairs from these tomorrow."

My wife had cooked a bird shot by Ernest on his way to bring wood. It was a very old bird and it tasted of fish, but we were very hungry.

We lit a fire to keep wild beasts away from our animals; then I said: "Tonight we will sleep in our new house."

The two older boys went quickly up the ladder carrying their bedding. My wife was rather afraid of climbing the ladder, but she reached the top safely. Then I took Francis on my back. I set the ladder free from the posts in the ground to which it was tied. I climbed up and pulled the ladder up after me.

"Now we are quite safe in our Tree House," said Jack. "Nothing can climb up here!"

"Oh!" cried Fritz. "Where is the monkey?"

"There!" said Ernest, pointing to Fritz's bed. "Nothing can climb up here, but a monkey can climb up anywhere!"

I kept my gun by my side as I was still not quite sure that the animals were safe. But the night passed quietly.

Ten

BACK TO THE TENT

A. After breakfast Fritz and I set to work to make a table from some of the rest of the wood.

Suddenly we heard a loud *bang* and a small bird fell almost at our feet.

"That was a good shot!" said Ernest, coming to pick it up.

"It was not good," I said. "It was very bad to waste gunpowder in that way. We may use the guns to shoot large beasts for food, but for birds and small animals we must use bows and arrows. Look at the bow and arrow which I have made. See, Ernest, if you can make better ones—and learn to use them."

When midday came we put some tubs round and were ready to eat our first dinner sitting up round a table.

"Where are Ernest and Jack?" said my wife.

"Let's begin our meal. If they come late they will get no dinner."

B. "Something may have happened to them," said my wife: "some wild animal may have caught them. I cannot eat if I do not know where they are."

We waited.

"I am sure nothing has happened to them," I said at last. "They are young and foolish and do not notice the time. Put the food on the table."

Just as my wife did this, Ernest and Jack appeared, carrying bows and arrows.

"Look!" said Jack, before I could speak, and he held out a very small bird which he had shot with an arrow. "And look what Ernest has got!—A rabbit!"

It was a very small animal rather like a rabbit.

"I am very pleased with what you have done; but I am angry at your lateness. Your mother has been afraid, fearing that you might have been in danger. Sit down and eat your dinner."

We had only meat and some bread for dinner. The

bread was very hard and the meat was an animal which I had shot yesterday.

"I left some things at the tent," said my wife. "If you get them, I can give you a better dinner. And the ducks are still there."

C. We set out. The dogs went in front: the little monkey was riding on Turk's back. Then came Fritz and Ernest with their bows and arrows. My wife and I came last. I carried a bag in which to bring back salt.

As we went along the shore I saw that there was still a great deal of wood there, and I noticed two long pieces, just the same size and shape, both turned up at one end.

"Now where," I thought, "have I seen pieces of wood shaped like that? Ah! I remember! In Switzerland, of course! That is where I saw many such pieces of wood!"

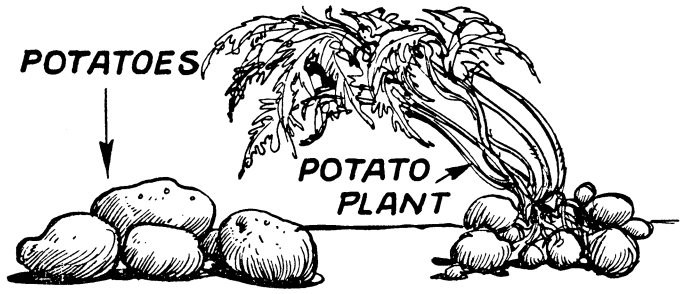
We reached the tent and found everything as we had left it. Each went to look for the things he wanted. Fritz went to get a tub of gunpowder and some shot which we had left behind. I went to get the tub of butter for my wife.

D. My wife pointed to a bag which I remembered putting into our boat.

"What is it?" I asked.

"Ah!" she said. "That is what I wanted to add to our dinner. *Potatoes!* I shall boil them for your dinner."

"There are very few—enough for only one meal," I said, "but, if we plant them, we shall have plenty next year, enough for all our meals."



Jack was listening to this. "We can eat these potatoes and then we can find wild potatoes, just as you found sugar canes and coconuts."

E. "No, Jack. Wild potatoes grow on the top of high mountains and they are very small and not very good to eat. These potatoes have been very much changed from the wild ones. We must make a garden and grow these good potatoes in it."

"But what can we eat now?" asked Jack.

"I will see what we can use now," I answered, "until our garden is ready. There are some wild plants which can be used instead of potatoes.—Now go with Ernest and try to catch the ducks."

Jack threw little bits of food into the water of the stream and Ernest caught the ducks as they came near to get it.

While they were doing this Fritz and I went to get salt. The sea water dried up on the rocks and we were able to get quite enough to give a taste to our food. . . . That is what I said: "Quite enough to give a taste to our food," but oh! how foolish we were not to think of more than that!

We went along the stream. The ducks made such a noise that the boys laughed and forgot the heaviness of their load.—They forgot it, but I thought, "Why do we carry these things on our backs and in our hands when there is a much better way of bringing them?"

Eleven

THE SLEDGE

A. That tub of butter was very heavy. I thought, "We must have some way of carrying heavy things. Suppose that I have shot some big animal for food, how could I carry it on my back?"

I thought of our animals tied up at the foot of the tree at night—the donkey, the goats, the cow. We could not tie up the pig. They were not safe. We must make huts for them. These would need wood, far more wood than we had used for the floor of our house; also bamboos. All this could not be carried on the donkey. We must make a *sledge*. Those two pieces of wood which I had seen on the shore were just the right shape for the under-part, the "*runners*", of a sledge.

I decided to take Ernest with me because he is rather lazy and if there was any danger Fritz would be of greater help to the others. So at first light of day I woke up Ernest and we climbed very quietly down the ladder. I brought a saw and hammer and nails and a piece of cord.

SLEDGE
RUNNERS

B. We found the two pieces of wood. Then we cut cross-pieces and nailed them onto the runners. Then we put a load of bamboos and wood onto it. I fixed a rope onto the front and we pulled it back along the shore. It ran very well along the sand.

Just as we were finishing our breakfast we heard a great noise among the hens. I thought, "Some animal is trying to kill them!" We all ran.

"It's the monkey!" cried Ernest. "He's following the hens and catching them."

Then we saw the monkey hiding behind a tree and eating an egg. The monkey ran away to another tree and Ernest ran after him. Soon afterwards Ernest came back with four more eggs which the monkey had hidden. My wife went and looked in the grass.

"One of the hens is sitting on eggs," she said. "Soon we shall have some little ones. We must make a safe yard for the hens and the monkey must be kept away from them."

C. Jack had climbed up into the tree. When he came down he pointed up into the tree and said, "Mother, there were *pigeons* on the ship, but they have come to land. They are up there."

"Ah," I said. "Later on perhaps they will make a nest and we shall have plenty more birds—and lots of eggs."

"And potatoes," said Ernest. "Later on, but not now!"

After dinner Ernest and I made the donkey pull the sledge to the shore to get more wood and bamboos. While we were loading these onto the sledge we set the donkey free. It saw good green grass on the other side of the stream and wandered off across the bridge which we had built. It was out of sight.

"It cannot have gone very far," I said to Ernest. "Take the dog Flora and bring it back. I am very hot and will go for a swim."

D. I enjoyed the swim very much and when I came back I saw the donkey tied to a tree, but I could not see Ernest. Where had he gone? Perhaps he had gone along the shore. Then I saw him standing on a rock. He shouted to me.

"Look, father! A fish. The biggest fish you ever saw. We must catch it and have it for dinner."

It was indeed a big fish; but how could we catch it? With what?

"Come," I said, "we must go home with the sledge. There are clouds in the sky and I think the wind is getting stronger."

Then I looked at the place where the ship had run onto the rocks. There was not much of it left: in another storm it would all be carried away. We must make one more journey to the ship to get some things

which we needed very much. It was our last chance. How could I have been so foolish on our last journey when we brought back the animals? What else did we bring back? Butter, some salt meat, bed-clothes, flour, gunpowder, some books. But we knew then that we might have to live on the island for a long time—a year, two years, many years . . . perhaps for the rest of our lives. What things had we not brought back? Why had I not thought of those other, much more important, things?

What things? Twice on this one day I had felt the need of them—once when I was talking to Jack, and then when I was with Ernest.

Twelve

SECOND JOURNEY TO THE SHIP

A. The next morning Fritz and I got up very early and went to look at our boat. It was in good condition; but we had used the sail to make a roof for the Tree House.

"I think," said Fritz, "that we can reach the ship by using the paddles. The river will help us on our way."

"Yes," I said, "but we must get another sail from the ship to carry us back when the boat is loaded and heavy. The wind is still blowing out to sea. We will run back home and tell the others that we will go now and that we will spend the night on the ship."

We went quickly and they said that they would

meet us when we came back, bringing the sledge to carry our things.

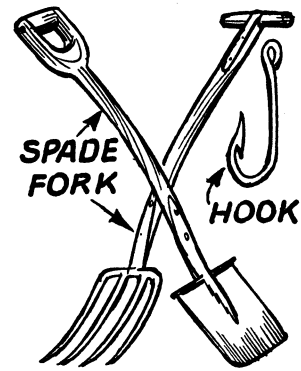
B. We reached the ship without great difficulty.

"Now, Fritz," I said, "what are the things which we most need?"

"I can only think of a very small thing," he answered.

"What is that?"

"I want a fish-*hook* to catch that big fish."



"Yes," I said, "good boy! That is one of the things which we need most: we need things for catching fish—hooks and nets. And what other things do we need? We cannot eat nothing but fish and meat every day."

"No," he answered, "we cannot eat nothing but fish and meat. We must have bread, and fruit, and roots and green food."

"We must have what we can grow," I said. "But in order to grow things we must have tools for preparing the ground. You remember Mr. Wilkins, on the ship; he was going out to start a home in a new country. He was a gardener. He said that he was bringing some gardening tools. We must find those. Now I will go down and see if I can find a *spade*, a *fork* and other gardening tools, while you must go and find a fish hook."

"Yes," said Fritz. "I remember one of the officers was fishing over the side of the boat. I know which his room was: I'll go there and see what I can find."

GOING BELOW

I went below and was able to find some spades and forks. I hoped to find seeds, but no, there were none. Then I thought, "we must have some seeds. What seeds can we have for growing? . . . Beans!" I went to the kitchen and found two sorts of bean: I took plenty of each.

C. Mr. Wilkins' room was in the back part of the ship which was now under the sea. We were not able to get any seeds there, but I thought there would be other plants on the island which we could grow for food. If we have beans and potatoes we shall do very well.

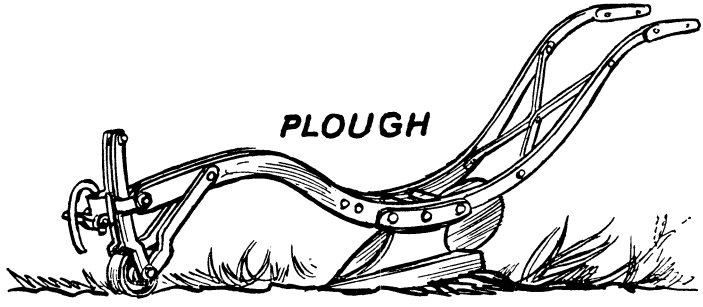
Fritz came back and said, "I have found a box of fish-hooks and string for catching fish."

"String?" I said. "The string which is used with a hook for catching fish is called a 'line'. Let us see if we can also find some nets."

We found some nets. They were not very big, but I said, "We can join them together with string. Let us now see whether there are any other tools which we can take back with us."

We took all the tools that we could find.

"I remember," I said to Fritz, "that Mr. Wilkins said that he was bringing a light *plough* with him. Shall I take the plough to the island?"



"What will pull it?" asked Fritz. "I do not think the donkey can pull a plough."

"No," I answered, "no, I do not think the donkey would pull it, and I do not think that a cow and a donkey would work together. But it is not a very big or heavy plough. We will take it. A time may come when we shall be glad that we brought it."

In this I was wise because later on we found something which would pull the plough, though at the time I thought I was rather foolish to bring it with us.

D. We slept on the ship that night and waited until midday next day, when the sun was hot and the wind was blowing from the sea to the land. I looked at the sky and I thought that we might have more wind than we wanted because the sky looked rather stormy. We put a good sail onto our boat and set out. At first there was little wind and the boat moved very slowly.

"Perhaps," said Fritz, "we may catch a fish on the way back to the land." He put a hook and line over the side, pulling it through the water as we went. Suddenly we felt a hard pull on the fishing line: it was a good thing that we had used the strongest line.

The pull was so strong that the boat was pulled backwards.

"The fish is pulling us out to sea," cried Fritz. "It will carry us away!"

"We must cut the line," I said.

"No, no!" cried Fritz. "Let us wait."

We took our paddles and paddled as hard as we could but there was very little wind to help us and we found that the boat was being pulled further and further out to sea.

"If only the wind would come!" I said.

Just then the wind began to blow and the boat was driven towards the land. The wind blew harder and harder and I thought that the sail might be carried away. We moved faster and faster through the water and at last the boat was thrown up on the land so hard that it was broken in pieces.

E. My wife and the boys were waiting for us there with the sledge. We quickly took our things off the boat and put them onto the sledge.

"There! That is all," I said.

"No," answered Fritz. "No! Let us see if the fish is still with us." He went into the water and said, "Yes, it's still here. We have pulled it to the land. It's dead." So with much difficulty we carried the great big fish onto the land and put it on the sledge.

"This will give us food for many days," I said, "if it does not go bad. We must put some of it in salt so as to keep it."

"But now," said Ernest, "we have no boat. What shall we do?"

"We will take the tubs which we used for making the boat," I said, "and they will be very useful for storing food and other things. And, Ernest, you shall walk along the shore, beyond where the wood was thrown up. I think perhaps that one of the ship's boats may have been thrown up. Perhaps it was turned over in the sea and the men were lost, but the boat may have been thrown up onto the land."

"Poor men!" said Ernest, "poor men! . . . But I hope there is a boat."

There was indeed a boat. It was badly broken, but we were able to set it right. So we had a smaller and better boat than the one which we had made for ourselves.

We had some of the fish for supper and it tasted very nice. My wife put aside some of the rest for our meals next day, and she put some of it into a tub with salt.

F. After our evening meal we sat round the fire talking of the things which we must do during the next few days.

"You must make a hut in which to put the tools and other big things," said my wife. "You cannot carry those spades up and down into our house."

"Yes," I said, "we must also make some huts for the animals, because at present they are just tied up at the foot of the tree. And we must make a garden."

"It must be a big garden," said Fritz. "What have we got? Corn, which we brought from the ship—potatoes, beans. And we may find other plants on the island which are worth growing in our garden."

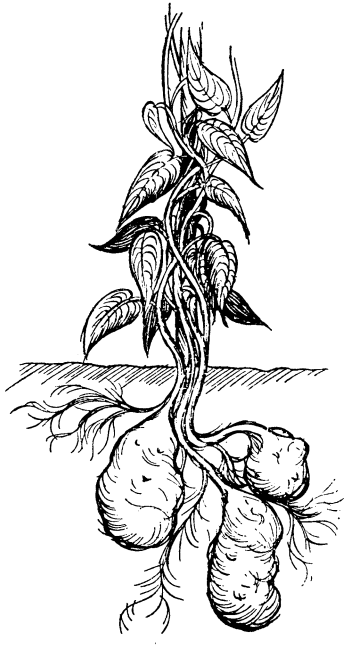
"That is true," I said. "Yes, but there is more than

that. We must make a fence round the garden, or the animals will get in and eat the plants as soon as they come up through the ground."

"Oh, what a lot of work!" said Ernest. Ernest was lazy and did not like work.

G. "There is one thing which you have not told me," said my wife. "You have told me all the things which we shall be able to eat next year, but you have not told me what we are going to eat now."

"Ah," I said. "We have no potatoes, but there are plants which may be found growing wild which will do almost as well. There is the *Yam*. I am sure that there are yams on this island. We must find where they are and use those which we find growing wild and plant others in our garden."



"What is a yam?" asked Fritz.

"There are several sorts of yam," I said. "I will draw a picture of the commonest sort, which we will hope to find."

I took a piece of burnt stick and drew a picture of it.

"That is the plant. You will find it climbing up some other plant: it is a climbing plant. We must

all go out tomorrow before we start work on the garden and see if we can find some yams."

Early next morning we all went out and looked for yams.

"You will find yams growing where the soil is rather sandy and you will find the plant climbing up some other plant—a small tree, or a cane."

H. For some time no one found anything. Then Jack cried out, "I've found it!" But what he had found was not at all like a yam. Then Fritz found a plant and he called me: "Is this a yam?"

"Yes," I said. "I think it may be. Dig down and try to find the root."

So Fritz started digging.

Then Ernest called me. "Here is a plant. This looks like a yam. This looks like your picture."

"Yes," I said, "yes, I think it may be a yam. But you must start digging and see if you can find the root. It is blue or dark red and may be very big. It may be bigger than a football."

Fritz was digging. He dug down two feet. He said, "I've dug down two feet but I've not found any root yet."

"No," I said. "Sometimes the root is three feet down. Go on digging."

Ernest found his root about two feet down and was very pleased, and soon after that Fritz found his root. They were both very big roots and we dug them up and put them ready to carry home. We then looked round to see if there were other yams and we found quite a number.

"Well," I said, "we shall be able to have something which we can use in place of potatoes, and it is also possible to make a sort of bread from yams."

I. Jack had gone further off and he came back and said, "I've found some potatoes, real potatoes."

"No," I said, "potatoes do not grow wild."

"But look at these!" he said, and he showed me the potatoes, green ones.

"You can't eat those," said Ernest. "The green part of a potato is very dangerous. People have been killed by eating the green skin on them."

"No," I said, "Ernest, you are wrong. These are not the potatoes which we have in our country: those do not grow wild, as I told you. But these are Sweet Potatoes: they have green skins and they are very good to eat. We must find as many as we can and plant them in our garden, and use some of them now until we get the others. . . . Now let us go home."

So we went back to the Tree House.

"First," I said, "we must break up the yams into small pieces and wash them very carefully, because the liquid tastes nasty and is very dangerous. We must wash all the bad taste out of the yam before we cook it."

J. My wife cooked the yams; they tasted rather like potatoes but not quite so nice. She took some of the yams and made them into a sort of bread. It was rather hard but good.

It was now evening. We had yam bread and some fish for our evening meal.

"When we have dug the garden," I said, "we must go and get bamboos, a great many bamboos. We must make a fence round the garden when we have dug it; and we must make huts for the animals."

"We shall not need many huts," said Ernest. "There is only the donkey, the cow, the goats and the pig—four very small huts."

"Oh, no!" I said, "—not four very small huts. You may soon find that we have many more animals than that."

And indeed I was right.

Thirteen

MAKING A GARDEN

A. We got up very early in the morning so as to start digging our garden while the air was cool. Fritz and Ernest and I took our spades, and Jack had a fork, though he was not big enough to help very much.

"First," I said, "we must mark out the piece of land which we mean to dig." So we marked out a piece. Then Fritz said, "What shall we do with all these wild plants which are growing on the land? Shall we clear them away?"

"No," I said, "let me show you how to dig. Dig a long hole, not too deep, then put all the wild plants and leaves down at the bottom of the hole. Then cover it over. In time they will become part of the soil and very good for plants which we grow in it."

I showed them how to dig. Then I said, "There is another thing which we must do. We must get all the droppings of the animals and bring them to the garden. They will help our plants to grow."

We all set to work, digging. After a time when we were rather tired, I said, "Let us go and gather the droppings from the places where the animals are tied up at night. We will bring them to the garden."

B. After a short time, Jack came running up to me and he said, "The pig! The pig has gone!" It was true: the pig had gone away into the forest.

"Well," I said, "we can't do anything about that. Perhaps she will come back again."

"You said 'she'?" said Jack.

"Yes, of course. We hope she will soon become a

mother pig. Then we shall have a lot of little pigs. I think she has gone away to the forest to have her little pigs there."

We went back and dug again in the cool of the evening and we were all very tired when it came to the evening meal. We had fish and yam.

C. "Now," I said, "we must dig again tomorrow, and then we will go and get a lot of bamboos and bring them to make the fence for our garden and to make huts for the animals."

"We must make a big hut for the pig," said Jack, "if she has a lot of little pigs. Must we make a big hut for the cow?"

"No," I said, "the cow will not have any little ones."

"Why not?" said Jack.

"A cow gives milk when she has a young one, and we use the milk for ourselves. But after a time she will not give any more milk until she has another young one. But there is no father cow; so the cow will not have any more young ones."

"And so," said Jack, "after a time we shall not have any more milk?"

"No," I said. "We shall not have any more cow's milk," I said, "but there is goat's milk. I do not like goat's milk very much, but it is better than *no* milk. Now, all of you, go to bed and be ready to dig hard tomorrow. On the day after tomorrow we will go and get bamboos."

"How will we carry a lot of bamboos over the land? Can the donkey pull a great number of bamboos?" asked Jack.

"No," I said. "We will not go to the place where we got bamboos before. We will go to another place and we will find a much better way of carrying the bamboos near to our Tree House."

"Oh?" said Jack. "Is there anything better than a donkey for pulling bamboos?"

"Yes," I said, "there is a much better way. We will go up the river. We will cut the bamboos and pull them to the river and the river will bring them down near to our Tree House."

"Ah!" said Jack. "Yes, that will be the best way."

Fourteen

BUFFALOES

A. We set off to go and get bamboos to make a fence for our garden and to make huts for the animals. My wife and the three boys came with me and the two dogs, Turk and Flora. We also took the donkey to pull the bamboos to the riverside. As we were going into country where we had not been before, we took our guns with us. It was a bad thing that we took the dogs—and a good thing that we took our guns.

We went up the river so that we might send the bamboos down the stream to the place nearest to the Tree House. We found a lot of bamboos. We cut them and tied them together, and the donkey pulled

them to the bank of the river ready to be carried down by the stream. Then we had a meal and rested.

Jack went away and after a time he came back and said, "Father, I have seen a lot of elephants. There is a big open plain over there, and there are ten or fifteen elephants on it."

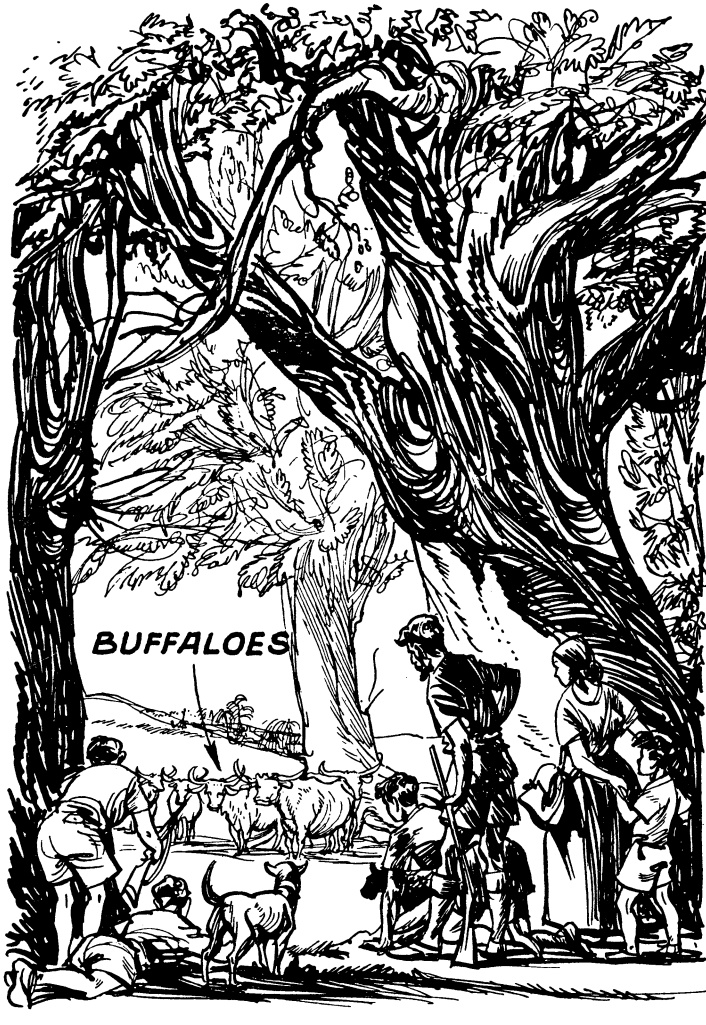
I said, "Jack, you must not say foolish things. There are no elephants in this place. There are elephants in India and there are elephants in Africa, but there cannot be any elephants here."

"But there *are* elephants!" he said. "Come and see."

So we all went to see Jack's elephants. When we came out from among the trees I saw a lot of *buffaloes* standing together.

B. We went nearer and nearer until we were about forty yards from the buffaloes. They stood and looked at us. I think they had never seen a man before. They did not seem to be angry or afraid, but just stood there looking at us with their big round eyes.

I could see two young ones among the buffaloes. Then the dogs, Turk and Flora, began to jump up and down and make a great noise. At this the buffaloes looked very angry and they came forward against us. We were in great danger. The two dogs ran and tried to drive the two young ones towards us, but the other buffaloes came forward. Then Fritz and I both fired. One of the buffaloes fell dead and the others turned and went away. Perhaps they had not heard gunfire before. I had not dared to hope that we might escape from this danger so easily.


BUFFALOES

C. "Come," I said to Fritz and Ernest, "come and catch those two young buffaloes. We must take them with us."

We went and put ropes round their necks and they allowed themselves to be led away quite easily. We hurried away as fast as the young buffaloes would let us move and went back amongst the trees.

"Come," I said, "we will leave the bamboos until tomorrow. We will come and fetch them then. But we must take the young buffaloes home with us. They are very important! We will give them milk from the cow."

The cow allowed the two young buffaloes to take her milk.

"But," said Jack, "there will be no milk for us."

"No," I said, "we can have goat's milk. But these two young buffaloes are very important."

"You seem very pleased to have got them," said Ernest.

"Yes, indeed I am," I answered, "for now I see a way out of two great difficulties."

"Oh," said Ernest, "what are those?"

"Well," I answered, "when the cow gives no more milk, that would be the end of milk for us, because she would not have another young one. But these two young buffaloes will grow up, and they will have young ones. So we shall have milk for as long as we want, and we shall have more and more buffaloes. Buffalo milk is very good. It has a lot of cream in it and we can make butter from it."

"And what was the other difficulty?" asked Fritz.

"The other difficulty?" I answered. "You remember the plough which we brought from the ship, and I said that I did not know what would pull it. The donkey cannot pull a plough and the cow cannot pull a plough, and the cow and the donkey cannot work together to pull the plough. A buffalo is very strong and the buffaloes can pull the plough for us. So now we have a plough and we have milk."

"Not now," said Ernest.

"No, not now," I answered, "but next year. We must not think only of today. We must think of the years which are to come, even if our life at present may be rather hard."

D. Next day we went back and cut up the dead buffalo and brought much meat back and put it into the tubs with salt so as to give us food in the winter. We also put the bamboos in the river and the river carried them down to a place quite near the Tree House.

We pulled them to the Tree House and set to work making a fence for the garden. Some days later, when this was finished, I said, "Now we must begin to make huts for the animals."

"We shall need only three huts," said Ernest.

"Why," I said, "only three huts?"

"Yes," said Ernest, "we need a place for the buffaloes and a place for the cow and a place for the goats. And perhaps we should make a hen house and a yard for the hens."

"But," I said, "what about the donkey and the pig?"

"Oh," said Ernest, "the pig has gone away. And today the donkey has gone."

"Gone?" I said.

"Yes, gone. I cannot see the donkey anywhere. And the pig went some days ago."

"Yes," I said, "yes. But I hope that they will come back. I hope indeed that they will! We will make huts for all of them, and hope."

E. We were sitting at breakfast a few days later when Fritz said, "Something is moving among those tall grasses. I will get my gun." He ran and got his gun.

"Wait!" I said. "Wait! Do not shoot. Let us see what it is."

Jack said, "I will go and see. I will go round and come behind it. I will find out what the animal is. If it is dangerous I will run away."

So Jack moved very quietly. He was very good at moving quietly when he went out shooting birds with his bow and arrow. The thing came nearer and then out came our pig with six little ones!

"Well," I said, "we're all very glad to see you, Mrs. Pig. And your house is ready for you. Come along!"

So we drove the pig and her six little ones into the hut which we had made for her. I called Francis.

"Francis," I said, "come and see the pig with her six little ones!"

He cried, "I have something to show you. She has six little ones, too!" And so she had. There was

Flora with six little ones. So now we had eight dogs and seven pigs.

F. "Well," I said, "all we need now is to get our donkey back."

One morning when we were busy planting potatoes in the garden we heard a strange noise far away.

"I wonder what that is?" I said. "What sort of animal is making that noise?"

The dogs had heard it too. They made angry noises and looked all ready for battle. We looked all round: we could not see any enemy; but the noise went on. It came nearer and nearer and our dogs became more and more restless. I tied them up.

"What animal can it be?"

Then Fritz put down his gun and started to laugh. "I can see him," he said. "That's no enemy. It's our own donkey. He has come back!"

There he was. He came nearer and nearer and made a noise, "*Hee-haw!*" And then we saw that he had not come back alone. We heard another "*Hee-haw!*" in a voice higher than our donkey's voice, and we saw that our donkey was bringing with him another animal, very like a donkey but smaller.

"That," I said, "that must be an Onager, or wild ass It is a beautiful animal and very strong; we must try to catch her. Now," I said to Jack and Ernest, "do not make a sound. Fritz and I will see if we can catch the wild ass."

Fritz went forward to our donkey, holding some salt in his hand. Our donkey loved salt. He came up

to Fritz and the wild ass came a little closer. Then, when she had got near enough I came from behind and put a rope over her head. She fought against us but at last we were able to tie her up.

I said, "Perhaps the wild ass will have young ones and that will make it easier to teach her and make her useful to us." And indeed this is what happened.

The hens were sitting on eggs, and soon we had forty young ones. So now we had quite a lot of animals to feed. We had the cow, the donkey and the wild ass, two buffaloes, the goats, the pigs and the dogs, and the monkey.

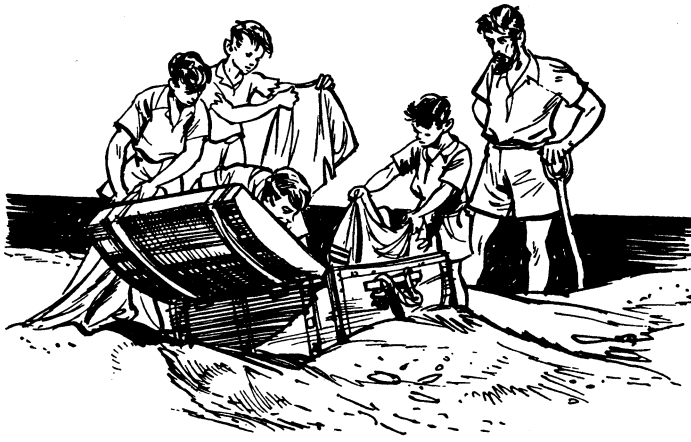
I said, "We must work very hard and get food for all these animals because the rainy season is coming on."

We had brought the tent from the shore: we filled it with dry grass. We got sweet potatoes and coconuts and yams, and put them in a dry place at the foot of the tree.

Fifteen

PREPARING FOR THE WINTER

A. Dark clouds had come up into the sky. The sea was stormy. The last of our ship had been broken up by the waves and carried away. I thought, "There will be more wood on the shore, but the sea will be coming up the shore as far as the place where we have left the boat. Come, boys," I said, "we must pull that



boat high up onto the shore so that it may not be carried away by the stormy waves. And we must turn it over so that it may not fill with water."

So we went down to the shore and pulled the boat up high onto the sand and turned it over. When we had done this, Ernest pointed and said, "What is that thing there? That square thing." I looked and saw that some box had been washed up onto the shore. It was nearly covered with sand. We dug it out and opened it and I saw that it was full of seamen's clothes. This was indeed a happy find. The clothes were very much spoilt by the sea-water. "But," I said, "we can wash them in the river and dry them."

"They will be much too big for us," said Jack. "They're too big for Fritz, or Ernest."

"Yes," I said, "they will be too big for you, but you will be glad to have them when your other clothes have got wet in the rain."

B. I thought, "Now winter is coming near, what things do we need? One thing will be dry firewood for my wife to do the cooking under the Tree House." We did not, of course, cook in the Tree House, because of the wooden floor. So we got a lot of firewood and stored that at the foot of the tree under the Tree House. Then I thought, "In the stormy weather we shall not be able to go far away from our house in order to gather food, so let us see that we have a good store of food in or near the house, which we can use when the weather is very bad." We had tubs of salt meat: this was buffalo meat. I hoped that it would keep good, because we could not get any more salt: the waves were coming up over the rocks and there was no hot sunshine to dry out the salt.

C. We had eggs, of course, from our hens and, with the fishing-line which we had brought from the ship, we might be able to catch fish, though this is not easy when the sea is very stormy. We had yams and we had a lot of coconuts. The goats would give us a little milk—there was no more to be had from the cow. There was plenty of dried grass for our animals.

"Come," I said, "we have a good house and plenty of food, so that we are well prepared for the winter."

That is what I thought, but how mistaken I was! The weather would be rainy. There would be high winds. The evenings would be cool, or even cold, and the days short. This was what we must look forward to. What mistakes had I made in preparing for the weeks which were to come?

Sixteen

WINTER

A. I think that the next few months were the most unhappy I have ever known in all my life. We had four enemies—the rain, the wind, the cold and the shorter days. The days were not so very much shorter, but we had to spend so much time inside the house because of the bad weather.

The rain came down like a river from the sky. It rained nearly all day and all night, though there were a few days when it stopped. Most of the land was under water and the river was so big that we could not cross it. Our bridge was broken. Happily our garden was on higher ground and I saw that our plants were beginning to come through.

The wind was very strong. When we made our Tree House I did not think that the wind would blow up into it. If a house is built on the ground and has good walls and a low roof the wind will blow over it, and the house is safe. But with a house built up in a tree, the wind blows up into it. Our roof was made of sail-cloth: the rain gathered in it in deep lakes, and great drops came through onto the floor. Then the strong wind came and blew the sail-cloth upwards and a river of rain came down into the room.

B. The days were cooler than they had been and the nights were very much cooler, even rather cold. We sat all day in wet clothes and we had no way of

drying them, and in the cooler evenings we did not know how to keep warm.

We had no fire. We put stones on the floor of our tree room and lit a fire on them, but soon the room was full of *smoke* and we were afraid that the floor might catch fire. On drier days, the sail which we had used for a roof might also be burnt. We could find no way of leading the smoke out of the room. If we made a hole in the roof the rain would come through onto the fire.

When the sun set, darkness came suddenly; but even in the daytime the room was rather dark. We had no light. We had found some waxy beans called "*candleberry*": these burned giving a very small light, but not enough to be of any use; so at night we sat round in our wet clothes, very cold, in the darkness, and there was nothing to do but to go to bed.

C. We could not go on like this. I said, "We must go down and live at the foot of the tree. We will spread a sailcloth over this floor, so that there are two roofs—the roof which we have made in the tree and the roof which we will put on the floor here; so that we shall be dry down at the foot of the tree."

We built walls round two sides of our room at the foot of the tree. On the other side there were the animals' huts, so they made a wall; and there was the tree itself. We made a hole in the floor of the upper room so that the smoke from our fire might go up into it, and there was no chance of the rain coming straight down onto our fire. When we were kept at home all day we spent the time making bamboo mats for the floor.

D. We were certainly much better in this lower room, but the smell of the animals coming in from one side was almost more than we could bear.

After a short time we began to have difficulty with our food. The buffalo meat which we had put into salt in tubs went bad: we had not got enough salt. Oh, why did I not think how important it was to get salt for keeping food good through the bad months of the year? We killed some of the older hens and ate them and the boys were able to go out fishing or shooting with their bows and arrows and bring in a little meat or fish when the weather was better. We had yams, but cooking was very difficult. When the weather was good my wife made yam bread, enough to last several days, but it was not very good to eat.

E. We had not enough food for the animals. We killed four of the young dogs, leaving only Turk and Flora and two of their young ones. We had to find food for the cow, the goats and the buffaloes. I saw that we could not give them enough in their huts, so we made bells out of the coconut-shells and hung them round their necks, and then we turned them out. We put a little food in their huts each night so that they were willing to come home. They went into their huts at night, but in the daytime we sent them out to find what food they could.

In the evenings, when we were sitting round the fire, we sometimes sang songs together and sometimes we told stories. Towards the end of this bad time I was telling them the story of Robinson Crusoe, and my wife said, "I think Robinson Crusoe was wiser than we have been."

"Oh," I said, "was he? Why do you say that?" I was rather angry at my wife's words. "I think," I said, "that we have done very well. He had only one person to think of, but I have to think of six."

"Yes, dear," she said, "yes, you have done very well, except in one thing."

"Oh? What was that?"

"Robinson Crusoe had a cave, and so he was dry and happy in the winter, but we have a Tree House. Why cannot we have a cave? The Tree House will be very nice in summer, but in winter we must have a cave."

"Yes, my dear," I said, "yes, we must find a cave."

Seventeen

THE CAVE HOUSE

A. I can hardly tell you how great our joy was when, after those long weeks of rain, the sun shone again and the storms ended. We came out from our dark and smelly room and looked up at the cloudless sky and the bright sun. Around us the grass was green and rich, and flowers were coming through. In our garden, too, the plants were coming up well. They were coming up well, indeed! But the birds had discovered this. We put Jack on guard, with the help of Flora, to keep the birds away, and the nets which we had brought to catch fish were also useful in keeping our plants safe from feathered thieves.

We hung up our clothes in the sunlight to dry them, and then we set to work to put the Tree House in order. We filled the hole in the floor, and Ernest was sent up to fix a piece over the hole which we had made in the roof to let the smoke out. Everything was very wet, but we lifted the sail-cloth up from the sides so as to allow the air to flow through. In a few days the room looked better, and we were able to leave our room at the foot of the tree and go back to our bright and happy home.

B. "Now," said my wife, "we shall be happy—until next winter, when we shall be unhappy again. I cannot go through another winter like that: it would kill me. I am sure that the first men, thousands of years ago, did not live in trees like monkeys. They lived in caves. We must have a cave."

I knew that she was right. I went out and walked along the shore, looking at the hills facing the sea. Some of them came down almost straight like a wall to the shore. This was the place where I might find a cave. I walked farther and farther, but could see no caves, at least none that was bigger than might hold one or two persons who were waiting for the rain to stop.

"Ha!" I said. "Robinson Crusoe found everything very easy. He wanted a cave, he looked up—and there was a cave! Just what he wanted! All he had to do was to carry his things up and put them in the cave and live in it while he built himself a nice hut. But that was a story."

C. I went back and told my wife and the boys that I had not been able to find any large cave, nor any cave which would be of use to us.

"Well," said Fritz, "if the cave is not big enough we must dig and make it bigger."

"You may try," I said, "but the rock is very hard. I do not know whether it will be possible. I will take you to the best cave which I found. It was rather low down on the hill. Perhaps at one time it was made by the sea, but the land has become higher and the sea has gone down and left it there. Come along and bring the tools and we will see what we can do."

D. So we went to the cave. We worked for a week, and had only made the cave six feet deeper. The rock was very hard. I thought that perhaps we might make a hole, then put in gunpowder and help ourselves in that way, but I did not want to use a lot of gun-

powder. Our gunpowder was too important to us. I did not know what to do.

"Shall we give it up?" I said to Fritz. "Shall we go on—or think of something else?"

"I think," said Fritz, "that as we go in, the rock becomes a little less hard. This piece here seems softer."

Jack, who was the smallest, had been set to work in the deepest part of our digging. One morning he cried out, "I've done it! I've done it! I've got right through the rock!"

"Do not be so foolish," said Fritz. "You cannot have got through the rock with that little bar which you have there."

"But I have!" said Jack. "I have!" Fritz went to see what he meant. He soon came back, saying, "It's quite true, father. Jack is right. I cannot understand it. You can push a bar right through the rock as far as it will go, and there is nothing behind. And I can move the bar about quite easily."

I was very surprised. I took a long bamboo and put it through the hole.

"Yes," I said, "there is nothing behind there."

"Let us make the hole bigger," said Fritz, "so that one of us can go through."

E. "Perhaps," I said, "if one of you goes through that hole, you may fall down a long way and be killed. We must be very careful. Let us make the hole bigger—big enough for me to look in there."

So we made the hole bigger and I put my head in. Suddenly I felt very ill. I drew back.

"Take care, boys," I said. "You must not go into the cave—if it is a cave. The air there is bad. It would be certain death to go in there. First we must drive out the bad air."

"How can we do that?" asked Fritz.

"We must light a fire." So we put burning grass and sticks into the cave, but the fire went out at once.

"Perhaps," said Ernest, "if we light a fire just in front of the hole, the hot air will draw the cold air out from the cave."

"It might," I said, "it might. But I think it would be very slow and not a very safe way of doing it. I think this is a time when we might use some of our gunpowder and blow the bad air out of the cave."

So I took some coconut shells and filled them with gunpowder and tied string round and round, so as to make a thing which would explode well. Then I lit one of these and threw it quickly into the cave. There was a very loud noise and the bad air was driven out with the smoke. I made two more explosions and then we tried lighting a fire again, and this time it burned. It did not burn well but the smoke and hot air came out through the hole and soon the fire was burning better. At last it was burning brightly, as brightly inside the cave as in the open air.

F. "Run to the Tree House," I said to Ernest. "Go and bring all the candleberries which we have got. We can use those to give us a light when we go into the cave."

While he was gone we made the opening bigger and the daylight came into the cave so that we could see the walls nearest to the doorway. Jack looked in and he said, "It's like a fairy cave. The walls are covered with jewels. It's wonderful!"

I looked into the cave and saw that it was as Jack had said. The walls were covered with *crystals.*

"That is very strange," I said. "Crystals of what? Of course there are crystals of sugar, crystals of salt, and crystals of many other things, and jewels are crystals."

Just then Ernest came back from the Tree House, bringing the candleberries and I went in first, just to make sure that the air was good. I looked at the walls and I saw that indeed they were covered with crystals. Some had broken off and fallen on the floor because of the explosion. I took one of these up and tasted it. It was salt.—Salt! That was indeed strange. Perhaps at some time the sea had made this cave. Then, when the land became higher and the sea went back from it, the crystals of salt were left there. Or perhaps the salt had come down through the earth above and made crystals in the cave. I could not understand it, but so it was. We would never have any need of salt again! Next winter we would have plenty of salt to keep our meat good through the bad weather. There would be no more need to gather salt from the rocks on the seashore.

G. It was a very big cave. I saw that we could make a store-room at one end, and a bedroom, and we could have a big room as kitchen and sitting-room

"But," I said, "there is one thing that we must make at once. I think that this end of the cave is not very far from the outside air. I will hit the rock inside the cave and I want you, Fritz, to go outside and listen. Tell me where you hear me most clearly. I will go *tap-tap*, then *tap-tap*. Tell me where you hear it best, and put a stick to mark the place."

So Fritz went out and I started to hit the side of the cave in different places. After a time he came back and he said, "I have found the best place. I can hear you quite well."

"Ah!" I said. "Then it will not be difficult to make a hole through there, from the outside air into the cave. It will be hard work, but we must do it. You and Ernest must go outside and cut away the rock, and as soon as I can be sure where your hole will come through, I will start helping you from the inside."

It was indeed hard work, but after two days Fritz was able to put a bamboo through the hole so that one end of it came into the cave. They then came and made the hole bigger from inside the cave.

"Now," I said, "we can make a fireplace, and we can make a *chimney*. We will build up some of the chimney outside and we will make a fireplace inside."

So we set to work using stones and earth, and made quite a good fireplace, and made a chimney outside.

H. "Now," I said, "we will see whether our chimney works." So we lit a fire; but the smoke came out into the cave. I saw that the boys were very sad and they thought that all their work was wasted.

"No," I said, "do not be afraid. When the chimney becomes warm the air will flow up it and all will

be well. Keep the fire going for two days and you will see that when the chimney becomes warm it will work very well." And it was as I said. On the second evening the smoke began to go up the chimney and to draw all the smoke out of the cave.

"Now," I said, "we need have no fear of the coming winter."

My wife was very pleased. She said, "Now I can cook and dry your clothes and we can sit round a nice bright fire on winter evenings. We shall be very happy."

I. I could see that there was a great deal more work to be done. The Cave House was some distance from home.

As we walked back to the Tree House in the evening, Ernest was thoughtful and silent.

"What is it, Ernest?" I said.

"It's a long way from the cave to the Tree House," he said, "and in winter we shall have to walk from the cave to the Tree House and back again, twice a day, to feed the animals, to get the eggs, and to milk the goats."

"Ernest is afraid that he may get wet," said Fritz, laughing. "Or perhaps he may get tired?"

"Ernest is right," I answered. "It is too far. And next winter we shall have many more animals. Have you thought of that? The sheep were very young when we brought them from the ship, but this year they will have young ones, and the goats will have young ones. And some of the hens will sit on their eggs and we shall have more hens, and more ducks."

"Will we have more monkeys?" asked Jack.

"No," I said. "I think that the monkey may go away and have a family with the other monkeys in the forest."

"Oh, no!" said Jack. "Oh, no! He must stay with us."

"Well," said Ernest, "that means that we must make many more huts and yards at the Tree House, so as to hold those animals."

"No," I answered, "no, Ernest. We must make a farm halfway between the Tree House and the cave, so that it will do for both summer and the winter."

J. "We shall need a great deal more food," said Fritz, "a great deal more food."

"Yes, a great deal more food," I said. "How wise I was to bring that plough from the ship! The buffaloes are growing up and they will be able to pull the plough: that will be a great help in opening up new fields. We must have corn and potatoes, yams, beans, green plants.—To work! To work!"

So we all set to work and we had a very busy summer. We put stores of salt meat, dried fish and coconuts in the cave. When the end of the year came we stored potatoes and yams. Then we made a store-house at the farm, in which we put dried grass and other foods for the animals. We built a small hut where someone might live to look after them at night and drive away wild animals.

"What are we to do about clothes?" asked my wife. "These clothes which the boys brought from the ship are nearly worn out and the clothes which

we got from the seaman's box are not at all good. They were spoilt by the sea-water and are falling to pieces. Perhaps they will last for another year, but not longer. I must make cloth."

K. "How can you make cloth?" said Fritz. "From what? We have only two sheep."

"There are plants," I said, "from which cloth can be made. These sails are made from *flax*. Flax is a plant from which sailcloth is made. It makes very strong cloth. I have seen flax growing on the island. We will get some of this wild flax and see if we can make cloth out of it, and if it is good cloth, we can take the seed and grow a lot more flax next year."

"Let us try," said my wife. "You get the plants and make all ready, and if I can make one little bit of good cloth, we shall know how to make more next year when we shall need it very much."

I will not tell of all the troubles and difficulties we had with the flax, but in the end my wife was able to make a few pieces of cloth from the flax. It was not very good and it was not at all white, but she was very happy; and it kept her busy. But for the present the boys got skins of animals, and, as we now had plenty

of salt, they were able to prepare them and my wife was able to make clothes out of skins.

So the year passed away—our second year on the island. The boys were getting big and strong. Fritz was now nearing sixteen and Ernest, fourteen. I looked into the years before us. I could see that soon I would have two fine, strong men to help me in our work on the island. As I became older and less able to do hard work, they would be able to take over the work from me. I could see that Jack was a quick learner and was able to help his mother quite a lot, and little Francis, though not very helpful yet, was really a good little boy and gave little trouble.

Eighteen

YEARS PASS BY

A. As the years went by we were able to make our houses better. We put a wooden roof on the Tree House so that the rain did not come through as it had in our first winter, but it was still not a good home for the rainy season. We also made steps to go up to the Tree House instead of the ladder. We built a room in front of the cave so that we could sit out there and enjoy the sea air and the sunlight. The cave was always rather dark but we used it as our sleeping-rooms and one end of it was the kitchen with the chimney. We were able to make a small window on the side of the cave where it was nearest to the outside air, but this cost us a great deal of labour.

As the years went by the farm became bigger and bigger. We had now buffaloes to do the work of pulling the plough and we were able to make a cart with wooden wheels. It was very heavy but two buffaloes were able to pull it. The buffaloes gave us all the milk we wanted and we were able to make butter for ourselves.

B. We decided to have no more goats. Goats are very bad animals. They ate the young trees which we planted and sometimes, when they got into our fields on the farm, they undid the work of many days. Two of them escaped into the forest and we were afraid that the whole island might be filled with goats and everything very quickly destroyed. So we used the goats for meat.

We got many more eggs from our hens than we could eat in the spring and the summer, but we gave some eggs to the pigs. In the winter we got just enough eggs for our needs. The wild ass had a young one. It was very pretty and it was easier to teach than its mother had been. We had now large fields, well fenced, and were able to grow all the food that was needed for ourselves and our animals.

C. Of course all did not go well. Perhaps the worst thing that happened was when the monkeys came on the farm.

One morning Jack came running back from the farm and cried, "Oh, father, father, come and see what has happened on the farm!"

I went down there and saw that everything in the

farmhouse was thrown about and broken; the fences were pulled up; the growing plants in the fields were beaten down or pulled up and thrown aside. It was as if an army of enemies had come to the place and destroyed everything they could.

I said, "This must never happen again."

Our dogs, Turk and Flora, had had young ones, and these were old enough to be taught. We made it a rule that one of us, Fritz or Ernest or I, would sleep down at the farm, having the dogs with us, and the dogs were trained, whenever they saw a monkey, to drive it away. The monkeys came back once or twice, but each time they were driven off, and after a time they did not come any more.

As I watched my boys grow up, I was very pleased with them. They were stronger and bigger than they could ever have been in Europe. Fritz was very strong and tall. Ernest was not so big, but he was quieter, sometimes a little lazy, but he was not so lazy as he had been when a child. He was writing down the names of all the plants on the island and drawing pictures of them. He made some paper out of long leaves, such as the Egyptians had used many thousands of years ago.

Francis was more to be trusted than Jack, though Jack helped a great deal in the work of the farm. Francis helped his mother.

Nineteen

THE CANOE

A. One day Fritz said to me, "I would like to go by myself and find out more about all those parts of the island which we have not seen. The ship's boat is too heavy for one person to sail. I want to make a *canoe*."

"Yes," I said, "I think we can make a canoe. I have seen canoes made from the *bark* (the outer covering) of a tree. Let me see if I can help you to do it."

We found a big tree with a good strong bark. I cut a ring round the bark down the wood of the tree at the bottom, then I fixed a rope-ladder to one of the branches and told Fritz to cut round it just as I had done, about eighteen feet up the tree from the first place. Then I cut the bark down the whole length between the two circles. We then very carefully separated the bark from the tree. We were very afraid that it would break as we were taking it off, but this did not happen. At last the bark fell from the tree in one piece and the tree was left standing with no bark on it.

We took pieces of bamboo and cane and fixed this into the bark so as to hold it in the right shape. We joined the sides together at each end of the boat and fixed them. We found a sticky liquid which came from a certain tree and which dried quickly. We used this for filling all the places through which water might come in.

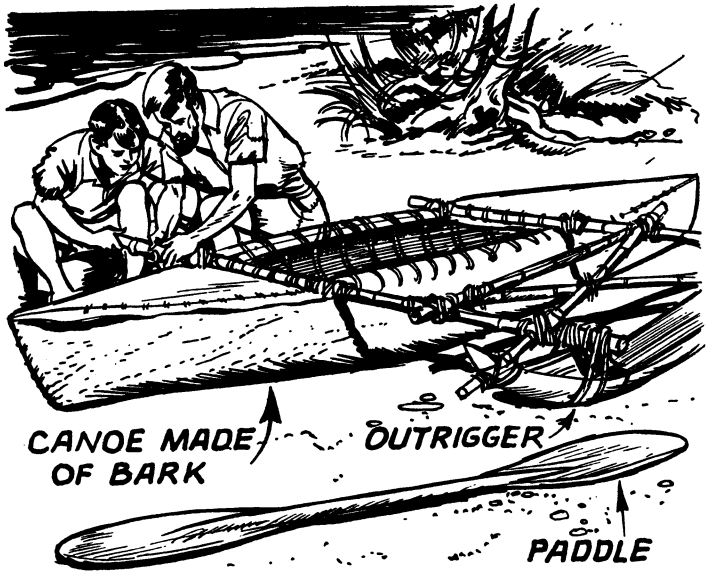
B. "I think," said Fritz, "that, as this canoe goes through the water, the water will come in over the front, and perhaps over the back. Perhaps we ought to put a covering over the front and back of the canoe, leaving a place in the middle where I can sit."

"Yes," I said, "you are quite right. We must put a light covering to keep the water out."

We also made a paddle with a flat piece at each end.

When the canoe was finished we left it for some days to dry, and then we tried it in the water. At first the canoe turned over and Fritz fell out many times.

"It's very difficult," said Fritz, "I can do it when



the sea is quiet, but I do not think I could go far if there were many waves."

"No," I said, "the canoe is very good for going in quiet waters, but we must do something about that. I think we should have what is called an *outrigger*. I will show you."

I drew a picture of an outrigger, that is, a bar standing out from the boat with another piece like a little boat at the end.

"That," said Fritz, "will make the boat slower but much safer, but I think with the outrigger I can put a sail in the boat, and when it tries to turn over I will put my weight onto the outrigger and so hold it up."

We tried this and after some days Fritz was able to use a small sail on his boat and also go safely among quite big waves.

Twenty

JENNY

A. One day Fritz went off in his little canoe. He was gone the whole day. Evening came and still he had not returned and my wife was very troubled and afraid that something might have happened to him. The next day we went up to the top of a hill early in the morning; but we could not see him. Then Ernest pointed. "Look," he said, "that small black thing, very far away."

We looked. It came nearer and we saw that it was Fritz in his canoe. We all ran down to the water to meet him. While he was having breakfast at the house, Fritz told us his story.

"I had always wanted to know more about the land lying to the west. We had never been further than the place where we first came to land years ago, so I decided to go and see. I took my gun and some powder in a bag so that it might not get wet, a fish line and my knife."

"You should have thought of others, Fritz," I said. "Your mother was very afraid that something might have happened to you."

"Yes," he answered, "another time I must tell you when I expect to be back."

"Well," I said, "go on with your story."

"I came to the place where we found shell-fish when we first came to land. I went for a swim there, and I found a lot more. I brought some of them up onto the shore and opened them. Inside one of them I found this." He held out his hand. In it there was a large *pearl.* "I opened some more and I found a lot of pearls. Look!" He took from his pocket a handful of beautiful pearls.

B. "If you make holes through them you can make a string of pearls for mother," said Jack.

"No, no," said my wife, "I do not want them. What could I do with a string of pearls?"

"Perhaps some day," I said, "one of you may wish to go back to Europe and will need money. Perhaps a ship will come which will take you home. These are

worth a great deal of money. I will put them in some safe place."

"I have not told you the most important thing," said Fritz. "I went on farther into a part of the island where we have never been before. In the evening I sat on the shore and had a meal. As I sat there a big bird flew over. It was flying very slowly and with difficulty. I shot it and when I took it up I saw why it had been flying so slowly. It had hurt its wing. Then I found a very strange thing."

He showed us a little piece of cloth with writing on it.

"This," he said, "was tied round its leg."

I looked at the writing. "*Help. Seaman on smoking island.*"

"It looks as if it had been written with blood," I said.

"Yes," said Fritz, "but where was the Smoking Island? I went up the hill behind me and I looked

out to sea, and there, far out to sea, there was a little thin thread of smoke rising into the sky. It came from a small island."

C. Fritz stopped. Then he said, "I must go and pull my canoe up onto the sand. The wind is getting stronger."

He went out. I followed him. I could see that he had more to tell, but perhaps did not want to say it in front of the others. I was right.

We carried the canoe up onto the shore. Then we sat down, and he told me the rest of his story.

"I went out to the island and climbed up to the top where there was a little wood, and in it I saw a small hut made of branches. In front of the hut there was a fire with some fish cooking in a big shell. I hid behind a tree and waited. Then I saw someone dressed in a ship's officer's coat come out of the hut. She went to the fire to see how the fish was cooking. I came out from hiding and she turned round . . ."

"She!" I said. "Did you say 'she'?"

"Yes. It was a young woman! I told her not to be afraid, that my father and mother and brothers had a home about a day's journey away, and they would come and bring her back."

"Yes, indeed we will. But tell me about her."

D. "Her father is Sir William Montrose, an officer in the army in India. Her mother died when she was born. Her father was going back to England in a ship with his men, so Jenny had to travel in another ship. The ship was lost in a storm over a year ago. She got away in a boat with a ship's officer and some seamen.

The officer gave her his coat and his telescope and told her to keep watch for any other ship or for land. Then another storm came up; a big wave came right over the boat . . . and she doesn't know what happened after that. When she opened her eyes she was on that little island."

"How has she lived there for more than a year?"

"I asked her that. She had shell-fish. There were some coconuts on trees. She made a fishing-line with her hair and a pin from her dress and caught small fish. She used a glass from the telescope to make a fire. She made a cage for birds out of bamboos, but could only catch small ones. The big bird which I shot had hurt his wing and came down on the island. She tied that piece of cloth with her call for help onto his leg, hoping that someone might see it."

"And, by the goodness of God, it came to you."

"Yes," said Fritz. "As soon as I had heard her story I set off at once. I could not come all the way home in the rest of that day, but I slept on the shore and started again as soon as it was daylight. . . . Can we go to Jenny today?"

"Yes," I said, "yes, if we start at once."

E. I went and told my wife about Jenny and asked her to make everything ready for her. Then, taking a day's food with us, Fritz and I set sail in the ship's boat.

Jenny was standing on the shore waving to us as we came near and, when we stepped out of the boat onto the shore, she threw her arms round my neck and could not speak for tears.

As we sailed back along the shore Fritz pointed to some of the places which we passed. "There! that's where your bird came down . . . This place is where I found a lot of very fine pearls . . . Our ship was driven onto the rocks here . . . We had our tent just here: and here is the mouth of the river. Look up the stream and you can see the bridge: it was washed away in the first winter but we made it stronger. And there . . ." he was going to say, "there is the Tree House," but he saw his mother and the three boys waiting on the shore to meet Jenny.

My wife led her away. "I shall have to dress you just like one of my sons, for these are the only clothes we have."

Jenny, bathed and dressed in seaman's clothes, joined us in a grand dinner, and Jack put a crown of flowers on her head.

Perhaps my boys thought that they would be able to teach Jenny a lot of things, but she could shoot better than they did: "My father taught me in India." She was very good at catching fish. She was able to tell Ernest the real names of many of his plants. "I learnt all that at school." Very soon they were all the closest of friends.

F. Jenny kept thinking of her father: "If any of the seamen were saved from my ship they will tell my father where the ship was lost and he will tell ships to come and look for me."

Then Fritz said, "If a ship comes the Captain may fire a gun, and, if we can answer it, he will know that we are here . . . There was a small gun on our ship

and perhaps we can get it up out of the water where our ship went on the rocks."

They found the gun and with much difficulty they brought it up to a high point of rock near the Cave House, and they put a lot of wood near it to make a fire and smoke.

"I am sure that a ship will come some day and take me back to father," Jenny said. "I am very happy with you; but he must be very sad, not knowing if I am alive or dead—always hoping and never knowing."

The weeks passed and the months passed. The summer ended, and the rains of winter came. Fritz and Ernest lived on the farm and kept it safe against the monkeys and wild animals. My wife and I and Jenny and the two younger boys lived in the Cave House.

G. The rains ended. The grass became rich and green and the woods were full of flowers.

Early one morning Fritz went out in his canoe to get a nice big fish for our dinner. We saw him turn round and come paddling back as fast as he could drive the boat.

"Quick! Quick!" he cried. "The gun! There is a ship!"

We ran up to the rocky point and fired the gun; and Ernest set fire to the wood to make smoke.

"*Bang!*" There was an answering shot from very very far away.

We waited, then fired another shot, and the answer came, louder and nearer.

Then we saw a boat coming towards the shore. We ran down to meet it. An officer stepped out of the boat.

"I am Captain Littleton," he said, "of the 'Unicorn'. I had hopes of finding Miss Jenny Montrose on one of the islands. Some of the seamen from the 'Dorcas', the ship in which she was travelling, told me that the ship was lost near here."

"Yes," I said, "Miss Jenny Montrose is here, safe."

He looked at me and my family, and at Jenny in seaman's clothes.

"But . . ." he said.

I made myself known to him. "This is my wife . . . my son Fritz . . . Ernest . . . Jack . . . Francis: and this . . . ." I said, ". . . is Jenny, our Jenny, as much a part of the family as any of my children."

Twenty-one

THE END

A. It is with a sad heart that I write this chapter.

The 'Unicorn's' boat is waiting to take this story of our life here to England, where perhaps it will be made into a book. Others will learn about our beautiful island, and those who love peace and this simple life which has brought us such happiness may wish to join us.

I asked my children if they wished to go back to Europe, or to stay here. Ernest said, "I wish to stay:

I shall learn more about the plants; but the Captain must send me books."

Jack and Francis were too small to go.

I turned to Fritz. "And you, Fritz? Do you want to go back to Europe?"

He took Jenny's hand in his. "Yes," he said, "we want to go now; but we shall come back."

Captain Littleton left us some much-needed stores and promised to send other things which we needed. We gave him our pearls to sell for us in London and pay for Fritz's schooling and our supplies.

I must stop. The boat is waiting.

Good-bye, my boy. Good-bye, Jenny . . . till we meet again!

QUESTIONS

1. A. 1. How long had the storm lasted?
2. How many sons had he?
3. What happened to the ship?

B. 1. What had the seamen done?
2. Where was the front part of the ship?
3. What must they find?

C. 1. What did Fritz find?
2. What things did Ernest find?
3. What did Jack find?
4. What did his wife find?

D. 1. In what way will the dogs help?
2. What things do they get to make a boat?
3. What three things must they have for the boat?

E. 1. How will they get the boat into the water?
2. How was the mast held up?
3. Why did he fix a long rope to the boat?—"So that it . . ."

2. A. 1. What must they do first?
2. What did each carry?
3. What living things did they bring?
4. What came behind the boat?
5. What did my wife carry?

B. 1. What did Fritz see on the land?
2. What showed them the best place to come to land?
3. What did he make with branches and sail-cloth?
4. What must the children bring?

C. 1. Who first found something which they could eat?
2. What had Ernest found?
3. What did they need?
4. What will they use for this (3)?

D. 1. What did Fritz bring?
2. How did they open the oysters?

E. 1. "We have no——!"—What?
2. I said, "Why did you not——?" do what?
3. Why was Fritz angry?
4. What did Fritz break?

F. 1. What was in my wife's bag?
2. How must this (1) be used?—"As . . . , not as . . ."
3. Where did the hens sleep?

3. A. 1. What must they see first? "If . . ."
2. What were the names of the dogs?
3. Why must not Fritz fire his gun?

B. 1. What was the strange plant?
2. What will they make out of this plant?
3. How can water be heated without putting a pot on the fire?

C. 1. What were the tall grasses?
2. What animals were near the coconut trees?
3. Perhaps these animals are (doing what?) to Fritz?

D. 1. How did I make the monkeys useful?
2. What did Turk do?
3. What did the baby do to Fritz?

E. 1. What will Fritz teach the monkey to do to Turk?
2. Why did they not like the bird?
3. Why do you never find a "birdy-tasting" fish?
4. What name was given to the monkey?

4. A. 1. What is the first thing they must do?
2. How does the wind blow (*a*) at night? (*b*) at midday?
3. What else will help them to reach the ship?

B. 1. What will Ernest put up in the tree?
2. What made the monkey happy?
3. Fritz said, "We must have plenty of——" What?

C. 1 What two things do we need for the present?
2. What three foods had Fritz seen?
3. What should we always be?

5. A. 1. What did I find?
2. What can the pig do?
3. What will they do to the animals?

B. 1. To which animal did they first tie tubs?
2. Which animals were most difficult?
3. To which animal did they not tie tubs?

C. 1. What was swimming towards them?
2. At what part did they fire?
3. What will the other sharks do?

6. A. 1. What did my wife find?
2. How did they cross the river?
3. How many trees were there?

B. 1. What were the roots of the trees like?
2. What were the branches like?
3. Where will they build the hut?

7. A. 1. Fritz said, "The first thing we must do is——" What?
2. What did Ernest say is the first thing to do?
3. Why did Jack say Ernest was wrong?

B. 1. What helped them to get the wood?
2. How did they carry the small things?
3. What did not carry anything?
4. Where did Francis sit?

C. 1. Where did my wife throw food?
2. Who caught the hens?
3. What animal was left behind?

D. 1. What joined them at the bridge?
2. What went over the bridge first?
3. How did the pig cross the river?
4. From what would they be safe in the tree?

8. A. 1. Why would not the wood on the shore be useful for the ladder?
2. What wood did Ernest find?
3. Why did I cut sticks?—"To make——"

B. 1. Why do they not measure the height of the tree by tying bamboos together?
2. What was Fritz thinking of when he said "Thirty feet"?
3. "How far away is that house"—Mr. A said 150 yards: Mr. B said 180 yards: Mr. C said 100 yards: Mr. D said 130 yards. About how far away was it?

C. 1. How much rope had they?
2. What is "cord"?
3. How long will the cross-pieces be?
4. What things did I make?

D. 1. Why must they use bows and arrows for shooting?
2. What did I tie to the arrow?
3. What did I tie to the cord?
4. Who went up the ladder first?
5. Where had the hens gone to sleep?

9. A. 1. What was the strange sound?
2. Why did my wife go to the shore?
3. What will be one of the walls of the room?

B. 1. How will they make a roof?
2. What did I not think of—"What would . . ."
3. What will the fourth side be?
4. Where was Francis sitting?

C. 1. What is a pulley?
2. Where was the pulley?
3. What did Ernest do? What did Fritz do? What did I do?

D. 1. What will I make out of the pieces of wood?
2. Was Ernest's bird good to eat?
3. How did Francis get up the ladder?
4. Where was the monkey?

10. A. 1. What must Ernest make?—" Better . . ."
2. What did they sit on?
3. What will happen if Ernest and Jack are late for dinner?

B. 1. What had Jack shot?
2. What had Ernest shot?
3. What living things are still at the tent?

C. 1. I carried a bag to bring—— What?
2. What shape were the pieces of wood?
3. What did Fritz get?
4. What did I get for my wife?

D. 1. What things were in the bag?
2. What must my wife NOT do to these things?
3. How must we use them?
4. What did Jack hope to find?

E. 1. Where do wild potatoes grow?
2. Who caught the ducks?
3. How much salt did they get?
4. Why should they have more salt? (Can you think why?)

11. A. 1. They would need a lot more wood, to make—— What?
2. What will I make out of the two pieces of wood seen on the shore?
3. What do you call the two under-parts of a sledge?
4. Why did I take Ernest with me?

B. 1. What was the monkey eating?
2. How many eggs had the monkey hidden?
3. What was one hen doing?

C. 1. What had come from the ship?
2. What did the donkey do?
3. What will I do?

D. 1. Where was Ernest standing?
2. What had he seen?
3. What must they do?
4. Can you think of things which they ought to have brought from the ship so as to live on the island for a long time?

12. A. 1. How had the sail been used?
2. Where will they spend the night?
3. What must the others bring when they meet me?

B. 1. What thing does Fritz want?
2. What things did I want?
3. What was Mr. Wilkins?
4. What seeds did I find?

C. 1. What is the word for the string used in catching fish?
2. What thing was Mr. Wilkins bringing?
3. What question did Fritz ask about this thing?

D. 1. What did Fritz put over the side of the boat?
2. What made the boat move out to sea?
3. What did I want to do, but Fritz said "No!"?
4. What happened to the boat?

E. 1. What must they do to the fish?
2. What parts of their boat did they take away?
3. What may have been thrown up on the shore?

F. 1. What hut did my wife want?—"A hut in which to put . . ."
2. What other huts must be made?
3. What three things will grow in the garden?
4. What other thing must they make?

G. 1. What plant can be used instead of potatoes?
2. How does this plant grow?
3. In what sort of soil does it grow?

H. 1. Who found the first yam?
2. What colour is the root of a yam?
3. How deep may the root be in the soil?

I. 1. What part of a potato is dangerous?
2. What potatoes had Jack found?
3. What must they first do to the yams?

J. 1. What did my wife make out of the yams?
2. What must they go and get?
3. Ernest said, "Four very small huts." What did I answer?

13. A. 1. What tool did Jack use for digging?
2. Where must the wild plant and leaves be put?
3. What must they bring to the garden?

B. 1. What did Jack say?
2. What will the pig become?
3. What did they have for their evening meal?

C. 1. What did Jack ask about the cow?
2. What milk will they have after the cow's milk?
3. How will they bring the bamboos to the Tree House?

14. A. 1. "It was a bad thing that we took the——" What?
2. Jack said that he had seen a lot of—— What?
3. What were these animals?

B. 1. How many animals were there?
2. What could I see among them?
3. What did the dogs try to do?
4. How many buffaloes were killed?

C. 1. What milk will the young buffaloes get?
2. In what two ways will the buffaloes be very useful when they grow up?
3. "We must think of . . . (*a*) . . . , even if (*b*) . . ."

D. 1. What did they do with the dead buffalo?
2. Which two animals have gone away?

E. 1. Who went to see what the animal was?
2. What came out of the bushes?
3. What had little ones too?

F. 1. What animal was making the noise?
2. What other animal came?
3. What did Fritz hold in his hand?
4. Where did they put dried grass?

15. A. 1. What must they do to the boat?
2. What was in the box?
3. When will they be glad to have these things?

B. 1. Where will my wife do the cooking?
2. What must they have near the house?
3. Where was the buffalo meat?

C. 1. What other food had they?
1——; 2——; 3——; 4——.
2. Can you think of any mistakes which I had made?

16. A. 1. What were the four enemies?
2. What was broken?
3. What made rain come into the house?

B. 1. Why could they not have a fire "They were afraid that ——"
2. We could find no way of—— Doing what?
3. What did I find which gave a little light?

C. 1. Where must they live?
2. What was on the other two sides (where they made no walls)?
3. What did they do to the floor of the house?

D. 1. What was "almost more than we could bear"?
2. What mistake caused the loss of the buffalo meat?
3. What did my wife make when the weather was good?

E. 1. How many dogs did they kill?
2. What did they make out of coconuts?
3. Why did my wife say that Robinson Crusoe was wiser than I had been?

17. A. 1. What bad thing was happening in the garden?
2. Who kept guard?
3. What things were also useful?
4. What did Ernest do to the floor?

B. 1. Where did the first men live?
2. How did the hills come down to the shore?
3. What did I day about Robinson Crusoe?—"He found ——; but that was a——"

C. 1. What did Fritz say?
2. Where was the cave?
3. How was the cave (perhaps) made?

D. 1. How much deeper did they make the cave in a week?
2. What did Jack say he had done?
3. What did I put through the hole?

E. 1. (*a*) What happened when I put my head through the hole? (*b*) Why?
2. How many explosions did I make?

F. 1. What must Ernest bring from the Tree House?
2. (*a*) What things were on the walls? (*b*) What were they made of?
3. There would be no need to—— Do what next winter?

G. 1. What rooms can they make in the cave?
2. What must Fritz do outside?
3. (*a*) What did they make outside? (*b*) What did they make inside?

H. 1. When will the air go up the chimney?
2. On which evening did the smoke go up the chimney?

I. 1. What two farm animals will have young ones next year?
2. What may the monkey do?
3. What must they make? Where?

J. 1. How wise I was to do what?
2. What will the buffaloes do?
3. Why must someone live in the hut on the farm?
4. My wife said, "I must make——" What?

K. 1. What are the sails made from?
2. What did the boys use as clothes for the present?
3. How old was Fritz? How old was Ernest?

18. A. 1. What did they make at the Tree House?
2. Where did they build a room?
3. What did they make in the cave?

B. 1. Why did they decide to have no more goats?
2. What did they do to the goats?
3. What did they do with some of the eggs?
4. What did the wild ass do?

C. 1. What things attacked the farm?
2. What helped Fritz (Ernest or me) to deal with these things?
3. What was Ernest interested in?

19. A. 1. The canoe was made out of—— What?
2. How far was the second cut on the tree from the first cut?
3. What did they put inside the bark?
4. What did they find to fill holes?

B. 1. What will happen when the canoe goes through the water?
2. What sort of paddle did they make?
3. What did they make to make the canoe easier to sail?

20. A. 1. How long was Fritz away from home?
2. What did he find in the oysters?

B. 1. What did Jack want to make?
2. How will these things be used?—"If one of you wishes to——"
3. What was written on the cloth on the bird's legs?
4. What did Fritz see far out to sea?

C. 1. What did Fritz go to do?
2. What was there in front of the hut?
3. Who came out of the hut?
4. What did Fritz tell her?

D. 1. What was her name?
2. How long had she been on the island?
3. What did she use (*a*) for a fishing-line?; (*b*) to make fire?

E. 1. What did Jenny do to me when I stepped out of the boat?
2. How will Jenny be dressed?
3. What did Jenny do better than Fritz or Ernest?
4. What did she tell Ernest?

F. 1. What did they bring up from the old ship?
2. What did they put near it? Why?
3. Jenny was sure that—— What?

G. 1. Who first saw the ship?
2. What was the name of the Captain?
3. Why did the Captain say, "But——"

21. A. 1. Why did Ernest want to stay on the island?
2. What did Fritz do and say when he was asked if he wanted to stay, or go to Europe?

LIST OF EXTRA WORDS

bamboo, 8/A
bark of a tree, 19/A
buffalo, 14/A

cane, 3/C
canoe, 19/A
chimney, 17/G
cock, 1/C
coconut palm, 2/B
cord, 8/C
crystal, 17/F

fork, 12/B

gourd, 3/B

hammer, 1/C
hook, 12/B

knife, knives, 1/C

mast, 1/D

nail, 1/C

paddles; to paddle, 1/D
pearl, 20/A
pig, 1/C
pigeon, 11/C
plate, 2/E
plough, 12/C
potato, 10/D
pulley, 9/C

roots, 6/B

saw (n.), 1/C
sheep, 1/C
shell; shell-fish, 2/C
sledge, 11/A
smoke, 16/B
spade, 12/B
spoon, 2/C
string, 8/C
swim, 2/A

telescope, 5/A
tools, 1/C
tub, 1/D

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